



Making Waves Academy  
**Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook**  
***2020-21***

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# Mission, History and Values

## Mission

Making Waves Academy (“MWA”) commits to rigorously and holistically preparing students to gain acceptance to and graduate from college to ultimately become valuable contributors to the workforce and their communities.

## History

In 1989 John Scully, Managing Director of the investment firm SPO Partners, had a vision. He shared this vision with the late Reverend Eugene Farlough, Pastor of Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church in Richmond. Together they created Making Waves, an organization, to support the health, well-being, education and pre-career development of urban children. Mr. Scully’s vision grew out of his observation that the disparity in educational opportunities available to some children and those available to others was increasing at an alarming rate and that the disparity was most often related to race, ethnicity and socio-economic status. He concluded that unless innovative programs were created to support and augment the efforts of certain public school systems, this circumstance would continue to worsen, resulting in millions of Americans lacking the skills required to provide an adequate quality of life for themselves, their families and their communities.

Making Waves has grown dramatically since then. From its origins as an after-school program, it evolved into two entities: MWA, a public charter school founded by Mr. Scully and his wife Regina in 2007 to offer a comprehensive, holistic program, including rigorous academics, social-emotional learning, mental health services, transportation, and college access counseling; and Making Waves Foundation, which supports students through college and early career development. Today, MWA serves over 1,000 underserved students in 5th-12th grades at its state-of-the-art campus. In 2015 the first class of high school graduates—12th Wave—headed off to college and many of them have already received their bachelor’s degrees.

## Core Values

During the 2013-14 school year, as part of the WASC Accreditation renewal process, the MWA community went through an inclusive process of refining MWA's Core Values. MWA's Core Values are:



### **Community**

We combine our intellect and critical thinking to support each other and make healthy choices for ourselves and positive changes in our community.



### **Resilience**

We are agents of change, who, through hard work and perseverance, have the power to define ourselves and to control our destiny.



### **Respect**

We believe each person is valuable and we demonstrate respect by following our community norms.



### **Responsibility**

We have integrity; we are accountable for our decisions and actions and their impact on self and community.



### **Scholarship**

We are life-long learners who aspire to and achieve academic excellence.

# MWA Expectations

MWA is committed to educating students in an environment of safety, behavior management, and high standards for all. Self-behavior management is necessary for each student's success in school and within the community. MWA's goal is to facilitate the development of student's behavior management with the support of students, parents, and staff. In order to effectively develop, implement, and support school-wide behavior management, all parties must work in partnership to achieve this goal.

## Student Expectations

In order to assist you in creating a more meaningful experience, achieving success, and making positive contributions to your community, Wave-Makers are expected to:

- Know, understand, and follow all rules and regulations.
- Interact with other students, faculty, and staff in a respectful and positive manner.
- Accept fair and consistent behavior management.
- Work hard to develop an intellectual understanding of the Core Values.
- Understand that harmful conduct to self or to others is not allowed.
- Respect and care for the property of self, others and school.
- Show consideration for peers, adults and self.

***Each student must read, sign, and return the Student Commitment Form and Acknowledgment Form***

## Parent/Guardian Expectations

Family involvement is essential to the MWA community and student development and achievement. While not required for admission or enrollment, parents/guardians play a vital role in the ongoing success of our school and our students and are encouraged to volunteer at MWA. For information regarding volunteering opportunities please contact MWA administration. . MWA parents/guardians are encouraged to:

- Be active partners with us.
- Model the Core Values we aim to instill in our students.
- Work with school officials to resolve any behavior management incident in a patient, objective, and fair manner.
- Review and sign off on assessments and class assignments, as assigned by the teacher.
- Attend parent/guardian conferences and school meetings.
- Actively monitor and assist with student progress.
- Communicate with all MWA staff in a professional and respectful manner.
- Reinforce MWA's academic and behavioral standards at home.
- Help with special events (e.g., dances, fundraisers, etc.) when possible.
- Attend all monthly parent meetings.
- Communicate with MWA by phone or note to verify student absences.

***Parents/Guardians must read, sign and return the Parent/Guardian Commitment Form and Acknowledgment Form***

# Staff Commitments

MWA has high expectations of both students and staff. Staff members at MWA are committed to the highest levels of learning, achievement and integrity for themselves and others. MWA staff will adhere to intellectual and scholarly development:

- Teach a curriculum that is rigorous and culturally relevant.
- Consistently reinforce MWA's system of behavioral accountability.
- Incorporate positive reinforcement as a key component of behavior management.
- Consistently integrate routines and procedures as part of the daily routine.
- Teach and model appropriate behavior.
- Communicate acceptable behavior on a daily basis throughout the school year.
- Show consideration and respect for students, families, and the MWA community at all times.
- Handle all situations in a professional manner.

## Middle School Academic Program

At MWA we strive to create holistic students who have a well-rounded educational experience. MWA's instructional program is designed to empower students to become analytical thinkers who can apply subject knowledge to solve real-world problems. MWA offers a broad range of academic and enrichment courses across all subject areas. Upon request, MWA will make available to any parent or legal guardian, a school prospectus, which includes the curriculum offered (titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course). Listed below are the course offerings:

Grade	Math	English	Science	History	Encore	Physical Education
5 <sup>th</sup>	Math 5	Language Arts 5	Integrated Science	Social Studies Early United States	Intro to Technology Intro to Art	Health & Wellness
6 <sup>th</sup>	Math 6	ELA 6	Integrated Science 6	Social Studies The Ancient World	Art Technology	Health & Wellness
7 <sup>th</sup>	Math 7	ELA 7	Integrated Science 7	History Medieval Times	Music	Health & Wellness
8 <sup>th</sup>	Math 8	ELA 8	Integrated Science 8	History US History	Art	Health & Wellness

## Middle School Promotion

Promotion at MWA (Middle School) is an event that symbolizes the transition from the middle school to the upper school. It is our expectation that every middle school student will be eligible for 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion. It is the belief of the Academy that with parent support, all students will be able to attend the promotion ceremony. However, if the student does not meet the behavioral and academic requirements, the student may not *walk* on stage during the ceremony and may not participate in any events (rehearsals, field trips, etc.) relating to promotion. Students may participate in collegiate events (e.g., college visits). Additionally, any monies that were paid beforehand intended for end of the year activities *will not* be refunded. For further information regarding the minimum requirements for promotion, please also see the section below regarding retention.

## Middle School Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
F	0-69%

D's are not part of the MWA grading scale, as a "D" does not receive credit when applying to college. However, percentages will be reflected on the report card along with the letter grade in order to show improvement (e.g., raising a 43% to a 68%). Academically, students recommended for promotion to the next grade are those who earn an overall average of "C" (2.0 or higher Grade Point Average) or higher in their core academic classes for that academic year.

## Middle School Retention Policy

At MWA we strive to make sure that our students not only meet academic and social emotional expectations, but exceed them. A large part of that success is predicated on academic achievement and meeting the expectations for conduct. MWA provides services that promote social-emotional development and awareness (restorative justice program, psychological support) in addition to various academic support systems (SST meetings, behavioral plan implementation, parent/guardian meetings, academic plans/contracts, etc.) to support the academic success and the mission of the Academy. Should students not meet the academic expectations, the middle school will advise parents that MWA intends to retain their student in their current grade.

To be promoted to the next grade level, a student *must* have *cumulative* passing grades (equivalent to a "C" or better) in science, mathematics, social studies, and English language arts. A student shall progress through the grade levels by demonstrating growth in learning and by meeting and/or exceeding the grade-level academic and behavioral expectations as established by MWA. Should a student receive below a cumulative "C" average, parents/guardians will be advised by the administration that the student is being retained in their current grade level. In addition to these standards, attendance, test scores, grades, teacher recommendations, and other pertinent data will be used to determine the possibility of retention. Students that are at risk for possible retention in their current grade level will be identified as early in the school year, and as early in their school careers, as practicable. To note, parents/guardians are currently notified bi-quarterly of their child's academic performance via progress reports and report cards. In addition, parents/guardians have access to their child's grades via the online *parent portal*. Should the student be recommended for retention, the student may lose opportunities to participate in school-wide extracurricular events (e.g., field trips, campus celebrations, casual dress, etc.).

The middle school is the sole feeder for the upper school. It is imperative that our students successfully transition into the upper school with the skill set required to be successful in high school, college, and in their chosen careers.



# Upper School Academic Program

The aim of the MWA upper school is to effectively prepare students to gain acceptance to and graduate from college. The courses offered and required of students are aligned with the A-G admissions criteria for the University of California. These criteria are some of the highest high school standards in the country. Students successfully passing these courses with high enough grades have proven to be competitive for admission to top public and private universities around the country. At their core, students will be required to attain and develop strong writing skills, critical reading and thinking skills, and strong mathematical, computational and problem-solving skills. A variety of core subjects are offered in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. In the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, Advanced Placement (AP) courses and other science, math, and art electives are available. Upon request, MWA will make available to any parent or legal guardian, a school prospectus, which includes the curriculum offered (titles, descriptions, and instructional aims of every course). Students scoring a 3, 4, or 5 (on the 5-point scale) on an AP exam may earn college credit in that subject. Listed below are the course offerings for 2020-21 [additional courses will be added and published in August]:

Grade	Math	English	Science	History and Social Science	Language	Health & Wellness	Art	Electives & Support
9 <sup>th</sup>	Algebra I Geometry	English I	Earth and Space Science  CTE: Introduction to Health Science		Spanish I	Health and Wellness I	Fundamentals of Art	Writing and Technology  RSP Support
10 <sup>th</sup>	Geometry Algebra II	English II	Biology  CTE: Intro to Health Science  CTE: Medical Terminology	World History  AP Psychology	Spanish II  Spanish II Advanced	Health and Wellness II	Fundamentals of Art  Advanced Art  Ceramics	RSP Support
11 <sup>th</sup>	Algebra II Pre-Calculus AP Statistics	English III  AP English Language and Composition	Biology  Modern Physics and Chemistry  CTE: Introduction to Health Science  CTE: Medical Terminology  CTE: Anatomy and Physiology	United States History  AP United States History  AP Psychology	Spanish III	Health and Wellness II	Fundamentals of Art  Advanced Art  Ceramics	RSP Support
12 <sup>th</sup>	Algebra II Pre-Calculus AP Statistics AP Calculus AB	CSU Expository Reading and Writing  AP English Language and Composition	Biology  Modern Physics and Chemistry  CTE: Introduction to Health Science  CTE: Medical Terminology  CTE: Anatomy and Physiology  CTE: Advanced Patient Care	United States Government and Economics  AP United States Government	Spanish III  AP Spanish Language and Culture	Health and Wellness II	Fundamentals of Art  Advanced Art  Ceramics	RSP Support

## Upper School Grading Scale

A 92-100%  
A- 88-91%  
B+ 85-87%

B 82-84%  
B- 78-81%  
C+ 75-77%

C 70-74%  
F 0-69

Percentages will be reflected on the report card along with the letter grade in order to show improvement (e.g., raising a 43% to a 68%).

## Grade Point Scale

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Grade Points (MWA)</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Advanced Placement (AP) &amp; Honors Points (MWA)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Grade Points (UC)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Advanced Placement (AP) &amp; Honors Points (UC)</b>	<b>1.0 additional grade point will be added for each semester in which a 'C' or better is earned.</b>									

## Upper School Requirements for Graduation/ Grade Promotion

### Graduation

MWA graduation requirements are displayed in comparison to the required and recommended courses for University of California and California State Universities. In order to graduate, students must successfully complete each of the required courses with a grade of “C” or better. Students who do not have enough credits earned in time for a June graduation are not eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

a-g	Content Area	MWA Required	Total Units	UC/CSU Required	Total Units	UC/CSU Recommended	Total Units
a	History*	3 Years	6.0	2 Years	4.0	2 Years	4.0
b	English	4 Years	8.0	4 Years	8.0	4 Years	8.0
c	Math	3 Years	6.0	3 Years	6.0	4 Years	8.0
d	Science**	2 Years	4.0	2 Years	4.0	3 Years	6.0
e	Language	2 Years	4.0	2 Years	4.0	3 Years	6.0
f	Art	1 Year	2.0	1 Year	4.0	1 Year	2.0
g	Electives	***	0.0	1 Year	2.0	1 Year	2.0
CA	Health & Wellness*	2 Years	4.0				
<b>TOTAL S</b>			<b>34.0</b>		<b>32.0</b>		<b>38.0</b>

\*The California Department of Education requires 3 years of History and 2 years of Physical Education.

\*\*Science requirement includes one Life Science and one Physical Science course

\*\*\* G requirement satisfied by 3<sup>rd</sup> year of history (A).

### Grade Level Promotion

Students must successfully complete a minimum number of course units to be promoted to the next grade level, earning a “C” or higher in a minimum of four core classes each year, earning at least eight credits in courses required for graduation. Each successfully completed semester course earns one credit. Students who do not successfully earn this minimum number of credits may be retained in their current grade level and reclassified into a different Wave. Reclassification occurs at the close of the spring semester based on credit standing.

Grade Level	9	10	11	12
Min. Req. Credits for Promotion	6 Credits*	14 Credits*	22 Credits*	34 Credits
Total Required Credits Possible	10 Credits 10 Total	12 Credits 22 Total	12 Credits 36 Total	12 Credits 48 Total

\*Must pass grade-level English Course

## Courses Offered By Grade Level

Each year, students will take courses appropriate for their grade level and earn credits toward graduation. The types of classes students will take will reflect the offerings listed below.

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
English	English	English	English
Math	Math	Math	Math
Science	Science	Science	Science
Language	Language	Language	History
Health and Wellness	History	History	Art/ Elective
Writing/Technology*	Art	Art/ Elective	Health and Wellness
Math Lab*			

\*Not required for graduation, these courses provide foundational skills critical to success in later courses.

## School-wide Services, Expectations, and Guidelines

### Student Support Services

MWA recognizes the importance of providing educational opportunities to all students regardless of physical challenges or special needs. MWA is committed to serve the exceptional needs of such students in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. MWA collaborates with parents/guardians, the student, teachers, and other agencies, as may be indicated, in order to appropriately serve the educational needs of each student.

Special Education Services are provided to allow students with disabilities to participate in their educational experience within the least restrictive environment (LRE). Special education services are provided by MWA staff and contracted service providers to all eligible MWA students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the policies/requirements of MWA's SELPA. MWA is part of the El Dorado Charter SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area). Students may be referred for special education support services through the Response to Intervention model adopted by MWA.

Identification and referral by MWA is generally made through the Student Study Team (SST) process by evaluating the student's response to intervention and possible need for a higher level of support, and by consulting with WCCUSD's appointed Special Education approved designee. Parents/guardians may also request assessments in any areas of suspected disability. Identification can take place at any time in the school year and support will be given as soon as eligibility is determined by an Individual Education Plan (IEP) team. Eligibility of students with disabilities for special education shall be determined by the IEP team, which can include district specialists (psychologist, resource specialist, speech and language therapist, program specialist, etc., as appropriate), MWA's Student Support designee, MWA administrator(s), MWA classroom teachers, the parent/guardian of the student, and oftentimes the student themselves.

If a student's need cannot be met in the LRE within the MWA program, the student's needs are subject to a more appropriate setting [non-severe handicap] (NSH) and turned over to WCCUSD or The Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) or designee program specialist to have needs met within the district or allow the district to decide to provide services outside of the district.

## 504 Policies and Procedures

Students with a disability may qualify for regular or special education and/or related aids, services, and/or accommodations under Section 504. Please refer to the 504 Policy which can be found in both the middle and upper school offices.

## Academic Integrity

At MWA (MWA), students are expected to give their best at all times and to consistently put forth the effort needed to achieve academic excellence. Forgery, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty of any kind are not tolerated.

### Plagiarism and Cheating

- Using work without acknowledging the content owner
- Copying assignments that are turned in as original work
- Trading assignments with other students
- Using unauthorized notes or technology, such as bringing notes into a test or using a computer program to translate an assignment and turning it in as one's own
- Sharing answers before, during or after quizzes or tests. Students must be responsible for their own papers and make sure others cannot copy their work

### Ways to Avoid Plagiarism and Cheating

- Plan ahead. Rushing to get one's work done the night before a big project is due may make it more tempting to cheat or plagiarize.
- Be sure to understand the assignments. Students should not rely on their friends for information about what is required.
- Students should not read someone else's paper or homework before doing their own work. Students should seek clear direction from teachers about when and how collaboration with partners is appropriate.
- ALWAYS cite the sources used in drafting a paper, report, project, etc. Follow the citation format required by the teacher or content area.
- Keep a list of the sources used (including the author, title, publisher and copyright date). Make sure to note which information you got from which source.
- Students should protect their own work. Ensure that other students do not have access to homework, essays, projects, tests, or other assigned work that has been completed. If someone else plagiarizes a student's work, the academic integrity of both assignments or assessments is compromised and both students will receive the same grading consequence.
- When in doubt about what to do to avoid cheating or plagiarism, ask the teacher or administrator.

# Attendance

<b>MWA's Absence/Tardy Line: 510-262-1511</b>
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It is imperative that each student be present, punctual, and prepared to participate in each of the classes. A student's academic success is dependent on the ability of him/her attending school regularly. If students are absent, their parent/guardian must call MWA **or** provide written documentation of the absence no later than 8:30 am on the day of the absence. Parents/guardians are also required to call if a student is going to be late. MWA will call all parents/guardians of absent students unless they have already notified MWA. Parents/guardians cannot arbitrarily take students out of school before the start of vacation days.

Impact of Missing School: Children chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to learn to read by the end of third grade. By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign of drop-out. By 9th grade, good attendance can predict graduation even better than 8th-grade test scores.

Moving on to high school can be an opportunity to reset attendance patterns. A recent study by the University of Chicago found that 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who miss more than two weeks of school, on average, fail two courses regardless of their regular academic performance. The same study found that nearly 90% of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who miss less than a week of school per semester will graduate. Clearly, going to school regularly matters!

We look forward to working with parents/guardians in a meaningful partnership for their children and we will work very hard to ensure students receive the best education possible. To provide a child with an outstanding education, the child must maintain excellent attendance. Due to California's law of compulsory education, all children of school age (6-18 years old) are legally required to attend school, so MWA will aggressively pursue solutions to attendance issues.

MWA allows 10 days of excused absences for illness or other purposes specifically identified below (see the section entitled "Excused Absence") without the need for verification from a doctor; however, absences without verification after 10 days will be considered unexcused. No student may have their grade reduced or lose academic credit for any excused absence, when missed assignments and tests that can be reasonably provided are satisfactorily completed within a reasonable amount of time.

Once students have 10 or more full-day unexcused absences, they are subject to the SARB process below.

## School Messenger System

MWA uses an automated notification feature that will call parents and guardians when a student has an unexcused tardy or absence. When an automated notification that a student is tardy is received, it is critical that parents/guardians work with their child to ensure they arrive on time every day. Tardiness disrupts the classroom setting and interferes with the learning process, often significantly impacting student performance. Patterns of tardiness may affect a student's good standing at MWA.

If a notification that a student had an unexcused absence, parents/guardians should contact MWA by phone immediately at 510-262-1511 to explain and clear the absence, as well as provide a signed note to verify the absence. For example, a note from a doctor counts as an "excused" verification of an absence. The note should be brought to school within 72 hours of the student's return to school.

## Tardiness

Arriving to class and school on time is a critical element of academic success, as well as a skill that is necessary for success in post-secondary and work environments. Habitual tardiness may affect a student's good standing at MWA. For unexcused tardies, the following applies:

Middle School	Upper School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student reports to the Front Office for Tardy Referral</li><li>• Tardy Referral is recorded in PowerSchool</li><li>• Student attends 30-minute lunchtime or after-school detention*</li></ul> <p>*Students may opt to serve their detention during lunch or afterschool.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student reports to the Front Office for Tardy Referral</li><li>• Tardy Referral is recorded in PowerSchool</li><li>• If student was late to class, the student attends same-day lunch detention; tardies to PM class results in a next-day lunch detention</li><li>• If student was late to a PM class, the student attends an after-school detention</li></ul>

***It is the student's responsibility to attend detention on the date that the student is assigned. Arriving late to detention, or incurring multiple tardies on a single day, will result in the issuance of a behavior referral.***

**Tardies excused for medical reasons require written verification by a medical professional.**

## Excused Absences

The following are **excused** absences:

- Illness of student (more than 10 absences excused for this reason are considered excessive; verification by a medical professional is required)
- Medical, dental, optometry, or chiropractic appointments. **Parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule appointments after school hours.**
- Quarantine under the direction of a county or city health officer.
- Funeral of immediate family (parent, grandparent, sibling or any relative living in the immediate household of the student) limited to 1 day in state, 3 days out of state
- Legal matters\*
- Religious holidays or ceremonies
- Religious retreats, not more than 4 hours per semester \*
- Funeral ceremony other than immediate family \*
- Unforeseen emergencies (i.e. natural disasters) will be handled on a case-by-case basis
- For the purpose of spending time with a member of the student's immediate family, who is an active duty member of the uniformed services, as defined in EC § 49701\*
- For the purpose of jury duty in the manner provided for by law
- Attendance at the student's naturalization ceremony to become a United States citizen
- Due to the illness or medical appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the custodial parent, including absences to care for a sick child for which the school shall not require a note from a doctor.
- Authorized parental leave for a pregnant or parenting student for up to eight (8) weeks.
- Students in grades 7-12 may be excused from school for the purpose of obtaining confidential medical services, without the consent of the student's parent/guardian.

***\*Must be requested in writing by parent/guardian prior to absence and approved by a school designated official.***

**As a reminder, the following will not be excused:**

- Family vacations/trips
- DMV Appointments
- Trips related to off-campus activities not related to school
- Work

## Unexcused Absences

Student absences will be recorded as unexcused for any absence other than those listed above as excused absence. More than 3 unexcused absences per year are considered excessive and results in a referral to the **School Attendance Review Team (SART)** for truancy proceedings (see sections below).

## Excessive Absences

Students accumulating more than 10 excused absences are considered excessive and may be referred to the **Contra Costa County Office of Education School Attendance Review Board (County SARB)** for truancy proceedings (see sections below).

## Early Release

Early Release is a privilege granted by the school administration to specific students who meet the attendance, academic and behavioral expectations outlined below. This privilege allows students the opportunity to leave school after their last core classes in order to engage in an alternate enrichment activity. All early release requests must be verified by a parent/guardian, and in some cases, accompanied by formal documentation.

## Authorized Reasons for Early Release and Absences

MWA students will only be considered for early release and absences based on the following reasons:

- Personal reasons (e.g., funeral service, legal obligations, medical/dental appointments, internship program, etc.)
- Observance of or attendance to a religious celebration, holiday, ceremony, or retreat
- Sports, outdoor education, or other educational programs
- Socialization (peer group, psychological services, etc.)
- Additional academic support

## School Attendance Review Team (SART)

When a student is a habitual truant, or is irregular in attendance at school, the student may be referred to the **School Attendance Review Team (SART)**. The first intervention is conducted by MWA SARB which is composed of representatives from MWA (administrator, social worker, teacher, staff) and/or member(s) of the county (law enforcement, members from the county office, or welfare). During the first intervention, the family and MWA sign an agreement regarding the student's attendance. Should the student continue to have attendance difficulties that lead to a violation of that agreement, the student may be referred to the Contra Costa County SARB. At the County SARB hearing, the problem is addressed, possible solutions proposed, and a formal, legal binding contract is made between the parent, student, and school. Violations of the contract may lead to referral for legal action to the District Attorney's office.



It is the responsibility of MWA to maximize the use of all available resources and services to resolve attendance and behavior problems. The law states that parent/guardians must be made aware of their child's absence in the most cost-effective method possible.

The following procedure will be followed to insure parents are aware of their student's absences and the interventions to be implemented:

- **First Notification of Truancy Letter**
  - Sent for any combination of **3** Unexcused Absences (UA) or Unexcused Tardies (TX), or excessive (more than 10) excused absences
- **Second Notification of Truancy Letter** (Habitual)
  - Sent for **6** full day Unexcused Absences (UA) or Unexcused Tardies (TX) or excessive (more than 10) excused absences
  - A mandated parent/student conference is held to identify areas of support. SART team meeting is required and fulfills mandated conference requirements.
- **Third Notification of Truancy and Referral to SARB Letter**
  - Sent for **8** or more full day Unexcused Absences or Unexcused Tardies, or excessive (more than 10) excused absences. Letter is sent only when the site is prepared to send the SARB Referral packet, as the letter alerts the family that this will take place.
  - During this hearing, the student's attendance and academic record will be reviewed. A formal legal, binding contract is made between the parent, student, and school. Violations of the contract may lead to referral to the County's Student Attendance Review Board.

### School Attendance Review Team (SART) Hearing

The parents/guardians will be given notice by certified mail for the scheduled hearing to meet with MWA's SART to consider a proper plan for correcting problems with attendance. Notices for SART are sent by mail 10 days in advance to address on file. The parent/guardian and student will be asked to sign an attendance contract. Failure to comply with the contract will result in the order of a citation to appear in a SART hearing.

Students should attend all classes daily and on time. Parents/guardians are expected to notify MWA when the student is out for valid medical reasons by phone or written note. Parents/guardians may also contact MWAs' registrar on a regular basis to make sure there are no attendance issues that have been missed. There is a maximum allowable amount of one week from the date of the absence to clear it before it becomes unexcused.

### Contra Costa County Office of Education Student Attendance Review Board (County SARB)

A student may be referred to the County SARB once MWA has utilized all available interventions to support a student's attendance. The CCCOE conducts district-level SARB hearings for students referred from its county-operated community school and its county-authorized charter schools. The County SARB will review information presented by MWA and will interview the student and a parent/guardian. Following the hearing, the student may be placed in a contractual agreement with the County SARB, be required to report their progress, and be referred to the County's District Attorney's Office if they fail to meet the requirements of their agreement.

More information about the Contra Costa County Office of Education's SARB can be found on their website: [https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/programs/for\\_educators/sarb](https://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/programs/for_educators/sarb)

## Involuntary Removal Process

No student shall be involuntarily removed by MWA for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five schooldays before the effective date of the action ("Involuntary Removal Notice"). The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder. The Involuntary Removal Notice shall include the charges against the student and an explanation of the student's basic rights including the right to request a hearing before the effective date of the action. The hearing shall be consistent with MWA's expulsion procedures. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until MWA issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include suspensions or expulsions pursuant to MWA suspension and expulsion policy.

Upon a parent/guardian request for a hearing, MWA will provide notice of the hearing consistent with its expulsion hearing process, through which the student has a fair opportunity to present testimony, evidence, and witnesses and confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, and at which the student has the right to bring legal counsel or an advocate. The notice of hearing shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder and shall include a copy of MWA expulsion hearing process. If the parent/guardian is nonresponsive to the Involuntary Removal Notice, the student will be disenrolled as of the effective date set forth in the Involuntary Removal Notice. If a parent/guardian requests a hearing and does not attend on the date scheduled for the hearing the student will be disenrolled effective the date of the hearing.

If as a result of the hearing the student is disenrolled, notice will be sent to the student's last known district of residence within thirty (30) days. A hearing decision not to disenroll the student does not prevent MWA from making a similar recommendation in the future should student truancy continue or reoccur.

## Arrival/Dismissal Policy

In order to protect and ensure student safety, MWA is a **closed campus**. This means that from the time of arrival to the time of dismissal to home, students may not leave campus. All parents/ guardians and students are expected to follow MWA's Arrival and Dismissal Policy, including traffic guidelines, time frames, and directives from MWA staff members and volunteers facilitating arrival/dismissal in order to maintain a safe environment for all students.

	Time	Procedure
Early Arrival	7:30-8:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All students (MS/US) report directly to Servery</li><li>▪ Car drop-off in authorized loading zones only</li><li>▪ Students must remain in the Servery under supervision of MWA staff</li></ul>
Arrival	8:00-8:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Car drop-off must use drive loop and authorized loading/unloading zones only. Parents/Guardians may not park along Lakeside Drive to drop-off students</li><li>▪ MS students report directly to MS campus</li><li>▪ US students report directly to US campus</li></ul>
Dismissal	3:30-4:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Students may leave campus via MWA bus, bike, car, walking to public transportation or home</li><li>▪ Students should report to designated loading/unloading zones only</li><li>▪ Students not leaving campus are expected to report directly to sports, club activities, or after school programming under the direct supervision of MWA Faculty or Staff. Any student remaining on campus after 4:00 pm will be placed in an academic program upon the close of Dismissal</li><li>▪ <b>Students may not</b> leave campus and return without permission from the Program Director or their designee</li></ul> <p><small>*After the close of the Dismissal, Parents/Guardians picking up MS and US students will need to notify the Front Office to grant permission to MS and US students to wait in the US Front Office for pick-up.</small></p>

### Expectations for Parents/Guardians and Students

Parents/guardians are responsible for clearly communicating with their students every day regarding student dismissal plans.

Students may make phone calls home from the front office during breaks or lunch if they need to speak to their parents/guardians about pick-up times, after-school plans, sports and other plans. Students are permitted to use personal cell phones during approved dismissal windows for transportation-related calls.

Students and parents/guardians are expected to respectfully and courteously follow traffic laws, posted signs, and the directions of all MWA staff and volunteers during arrival and dismissal. Additionally, they should be mindful of the volume and appropriateness of their music when on campus.

**To ensure student safety, and to ensure families get through the arrival and dismissal line quickly, please follow the directions of staff at all times.** The dismissal process takes approximately 30 minutes. Students and parents/guardians should plan ahead if there is an appointment or other commitment for which they need to leave school promptly. Parents/guardians should review the early release procedure if they anticipate needing to leave school early in order to attend an appointment (appointments are excused per the reasons outlined in the Attendance Policy).

## Traffic Procedures

To ensure student and community safety, it is essential to follow the traffic procedure. Families and/or Students found violating traffic regulations or operating in an unsafe manner may lose their parking privileges on campus. The local police department will be involved if necessary.

### Guidelines

- Always follow directions of the staff directing traffic
- Always to use the crosswalk
- Never “j-walk”
- U-Turns on Lakeside are prohibited
- Never park in the bus loading zones
- Speed limit is 5 mph while driving in the parking lots or on the campus
- Students may only park in designated areas
- Students may not park in faculty or visitor parking spaces
- Students must be dropped off in designated areas ONLY

Students and parents/guardians who do not follow the Arrival/Dismissal Policy jeopardize the safety of our students and staff, and will be subject to the following:

- Detention  
or restriction n from after-school programming
- Meeting with Division Directors to discuss safety violations
- Report to Law Enforcement as mandated by law

*\*US Athletes are permitted to leave campus and return for later practices and games with the permission of the Athletic Director. Athletes must return promptly at the start time of their activity supervised by MWA staff, or wait in the designated academic program area. Athletes may **not** bring unapproved food back to campus.*

## Immunizations and Physical Examinations

To ensure a safe learning environment for all students, MWA follows and abides by the health standards set forth by the state of California. Students will not attend school until all required records have been received. The immunization status of all students will be reviewed periodically. Those students who do not meet the State guidelines may be excluded from school until the requirements are met. Students who have been exposed to a communicable disease for which they have not been immunized may be excluded from school at the discretion of MWA.

Students will be screened for vision, hearing and scoliosis. A parent/guardian a child enrolled in MWA may file annually with the Senior School Director a written and signed statement stating that he or she will not consent to a physical examination of the child. Thereupon the child shall be exempt from any physical examination, but whenever there is a good reason to believe that the child is suffering from a recognized contagious or infectious disease, the child shall be sent home and shall not be permitted to return until MWA authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.

## Nutrition Policy

Part of the MWA holistic approach involves children being properly nourished. Statistics show that brain function is related to nutrition, and unfortunately, many students are less prepared to learn because they do not consume consistently nutritious meals on a regular basis. The purpose of MWA's nutrition/food guidelines is to serve as a point of nutritional reference to provide consistency for both staff and students.

***Our priority is the health of our young people.*** Any contradictory messages (regarding healthy food choices and nutrition) undermine our approach and philosophy on student health. We want our students to build healthy eating habits that they follow now and in the future, but they need help in doing this. Some of our students live in communities where a large part of the population suffers from preventable diseases directly related to diet and food choice. As a result of living in communities where healthy food options are not always available, we want to ensure that our community has the requisite knowledge to make healthy food choices.

MWA participates in the National School Lunch Program. Applications for free or reduced price meals are included in the first day packets to all families and can also be obtained in the main office. All families are encouraged to complete the application form in order to include as many eligible students as possible.

## Food Drop-Offs

Any food being dropped off to students by families during the school day must be brought directly to the Front Office of the middle school or upper school. Students may pick up their food from the Front Office once it has been approved by the Senior School Director or their designee. ***Students may not utilize food delivery services, such as Uber Eats, GrubHub, pizza delivery, etc.***

### MWA Food Service is committed to:

- Providing students with healthy and nutritious foods; all students will have access to healthy and nutritious food from MWA.
- Encouraging the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, low fat milk and whole grains.
- Supporting healthy eating through nutrition education.
- Encouraging students to select and consume all components of the school meal.

The following outline provides a guide to the foods and beverages that are **approved** by MWA for students to bring for everyday breakfast, snack and lunch:

APPROVED	Why is this the healthy choice?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Snack/protein bars</b></li><li>• <b>Healthy sandwiches</b></li><li>• <b>Cereal/oatmeal</b></li><li>• <b>Baked savory snacks (i.e. pretzels, crackers)</b></li><li>• <b>Homemade meals (for your child only)</b></li><li>• <b>Fruit</b></li><li>• <b>Vegetables</b></li><li>• <b>Yogurt</b></li><li>• <b>Whole grains</b></li><li>• <b>Food items that are low in fat/ calories</b></li><li>• <b>Water</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whole grains provide fiber and vital nutrients to fuel a healthy metabolism.</li><li>• Lean protein allows for proper muscle development.</li><li>• Diets rich in calcium support healthy bone growth.</li><li>• Fruits and vegetables provide necessary vitamins and nutrients for proper development and brain function.</li><li>• Water keeps the body hydrated and operating. It also helps flush out toxins.</li></ul>

The following outline provides a guide to the foods and beverages that are **not approved** by MWA for students to bring to school other than on special occasions identified on the school calendar:

NON- APPROVED*	Why is this <i>not</i> healthy for our daily food choice?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sodas/Sport drinks</li> <li>• Candy</li> <li>• Gum</li> <li>• Chips (<i>outside of recommended personal serving size during designated meal periods</i>)</li> <li>• Sunflower seeds</li> <li>• Cookies/Brownies/ Desserts (<i>outside of recommended personal serving size during designated meal periods</i>)</li> <li>• Fast food</li> <li>• Ramen/Cup of Noodles</li> <li>• Caffeinated beverages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High sugar consumption can lead to diabetes and excessive weight gain.</li> <li>• Diets that include too much sodium can lead to high blood pressure and heart disease.</li> <li>• Foods high in fat can lead to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, excessive weight gain, and diabetes.</li> <li>• Caffeine is a stimulant, affecting your heart rate and blood pressure. Caffeine also has addictive properties- meaning the growing/developing body can become dependent.</li> <li>• Processed and artificially-flavored foods contain unhealthy chemicals and discourage healthy body development.</li> </ul>

\*Non-approved foods will be confiscated. Students receiving multiple infractions of this policy will be issued a referral. All student food consumption should take place during designated snack break and lunch periods in approved servery areas.

Note: The Nutrition Policy can be flexible to accommodate special events and celebrations throughout the year when pre-approved by senior leadership.

## Bus Rights and Responsibilities

Use of the MWA Bus Service is a privilege. For the safety of all bus riders the following guidelines must be followed:

- Food and drink (including water) are prohibited on the bus.
- Wave-Makers must follow the directions of the driver/MWA staff at all times.
- Wave-Makers must line up in a single-file line and board or exit the bus quickly, quietly, and safely (QQS). Upon exiting, they must wait for the bBus mMonitor to call their name and check for their authorized transporter.
- 
- Voices must be kept at a level 1-2 at all times. Wave-Makers may not use inappropriate or disrespectful language at any time, on the bus or out of bus windows, or at the bus stop.
- Wave-Makers must occupy one seat and place backpacks and other belongings on their lap or under the seat.
- Wave-Makers must remain in their seat at all times, keeping the aisles clear, and facing forward.
- Wave-Makers must ask the driver/MWA staff member for permission to open and close windows.
- Wave-Makers must not leave litter or throw anything out of the windows.
- Cell phones are permissible for use to contact parents/guardians and for personal entertainment (with use of headphones). Video recording and taking pictures are not permitted.
- If a Wave-Maker is unable to follow the bus rights and responsibilities, the student will have their bus privileges temporarily or permanently removed. The family will be responsible for transporting the student to and from school.

All students who are transported in a school bus or school student activity bus shall receive instruction in school bus emergency procedures and passenger safety. Upon registration, MWA is required to provide safety regulations to all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade new students and students who have not previously been transported by school bus. Additionally, MWA must also provide safety instruction to all students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade who receive home-to-school transportation. For more information about MWA's policy, please see the complete policy located at the front office.

# Expectations for Outdoor Activities and Use of Facilities

To maintain consistency and a positive school climate throughout the MWA community the following rules and expectations apply in all outdoor spaces across the MWA campus:

## GENERAL RULES

Students must:

- Follow all directions from MWA staff members and adhere to all school rules.
- Share equipment and space.
- Keep all areas clean and tidy.
- Notice. Talk. Act. Report any unsafe behavior to a MWA staff member.
- Practice good sportsmanship.
- Freeze at the end of recess when the whistle is blown, then proceed immediately to designated line-up areas.

## THE GARDEN

Students must never:

- Stand on, get inside, or jump over concrete raised beds.
- Pull or pick at plants in the garden without staff permission.
- Eat anything from the garden without consulting with a staff member.
- Hide behind plants at any time.

## TURF FIELD/COURTS

- No food, beverages, or eating allowed on turf or basketball courts.
- No backpacks or students wearing backpacks allowed on turf.
- No lounging, hanging out, sitting, or loitering on turf areas; students must be actively playing a game or sport.

## FENCES/GATES

Students must:

- Stay inside MWA's fences/perimeter at all times. No students are permitted to be outside of fences/perimeter.
- Not play or climb on fences.
- Not throw any objects through or over the fences or gates.
- Not exit any gate at any time without explicit permission from a staff member.

## EQUIPMENT

- Students may check-out recess equipment from designated staff. Students are discouraged from bringing recess equipment from home. Equipment brought from home should be stored out of sight (e.g. backpack/locker) Equipment brought from home that is used outside of designated break periods may be confiscated.
- If personal equipment brought from home goes over the fences, students and parents may retrieve it after school.
- If MWA or Health and Wellness equipment goes over the fences, MWA staff will supervise retrieval.
- No bats or hardballs are permitted for use at MWA.
- No jump ropes may be tied on fences or used in any physical way towards another person.
- No rollerblades, Heelys, scooters, or skateboards.
- Students may not climb poles or hang from hoops or nets on the basketball courts. Hoops are for balls only.

## PICNIC BENCHES AND CEMENT LEDGES/BENCHES

- Students are to clean up after themselves after consuming food or beverages, trash is to be picked up and disposed of
- Students cannot stand on picnic tables, benches, or cement ledges/benches anywhere on campus.

## **RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES, AREAS, AND EQUIPMENT**

- Any areas outside of the perimeter are off limits to students.
- Any area around or near storage sheds are off limits to students.
- Students are to remain off all landscaped and garden areas, including the sand/pebble/bark areas.
- Unsupervised students are not allowed in classrooms or hallways.
- No rock throwing; what is on the ground stays on the ground.
- Tag or Flag football only; no tackling or contact sports.
- No dog piling, wrestling, play-fighting, or similar games.
- No cheerleader flips, cartwheels, or gymnastics.

## **TURF RULES**

- No Backpacks or students wearing backpacks on the turf. Drop backpacks in the backpack zone prior to entering the turf area.
- No food, drink or eating is permitted on the turf. No gum. Drinking water is permitted on the turf only in sealed bottles resting against the fence.
- No sitting/laying (Turf is for exercise/practice/walking only).
- Students will not have access to Health and Wellness equipment during recess. Students must bring equipment from home and store it in their lockers/backpacks.
- If there are H&W classes using the turf, no students will be able to use turf for recess.
- Adult supervision is mandatory in order for students to use the turf.
- No tackling, tripping, wrestling, or play fighting is permitted on the turf.
- When whistle blows, any equipment continued to be used will be confiscated. 10 second rule!
- No phones on the turf.

## **GYM RULES**

- Food, gum, beverages are not allowed.
- Non-marking athletic shoes are REQUIRED on the gym floor.
- Scheduled events have priority.
- Return all equipment after use.
- Do not wear jewelry during workouts.
- Lock all valuables in your assigned lockers.
- No backpacks on the court.
- Report all injuries to your instructor immediately.
- Anyone found damaging or defacing the gym or equipment will be held financially responsible and subject to disciplinary action.
- If the space needs custodial services, please notify your instructor immediately.
- No hanging or jumping on any equipment.
- No dunking, hanging on basketball hoop nets, volleyball stands/nets, bleachers.



# MWA Dress Code

MWA strives to foster high standards in all areas of the school program, including student attire and personal appearance. At MWA, we believe that student attire has a significant impact on student mindset and behavior. In order to cultivate a sense of pride in one's appearance, to provide the daily opportunity to acclimate to an external standard of dress, and to promote and maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment, MWA has implemented a school-wide dress code policy.

All students are required to follow the MWA uniform dress code outlined below, from the time they arrive until the time they leave campus. In general, students' clothing should fit properly and reflect a sense of professionalism to the academic environment– clothes should not be ripped, torn, overly baggy, inappropriately tight or revealing. If students or parents/guardians are unsure about the MWA dress code, it is their responsibility to seek clarification.

MWA Dress Code applies in class, on campus, and during off-campus field trips.

## Uniform for Normal School Days

- **Bottoms:** NAVY BLUE uniform pants, shorts, skorts, or skirts
  - Must be worn at waist level
  - Uniform bottoms cannot be more than 3 inches from the top of the knee
- **Shirts:** WHITE or SKY BLUE collared shirt or button-down collared dress shirt
  - College t-shirts or sweaters on "College Friday"
  - Long-sleeve undershirts are acceptable (neutral solid colors only)
- **Sweaters:** Uniform colors or neutral-colored cardigans or sweater vests
- **Jackets:** Can be any color; no offensive images or logos; must be removed prior to entering class
- **Shoes:** Closed-toed shoes – sneakers, flats, and casual shoes are acceptable (any color is okay)
  - No shoes with cleats or spikes
  - Not permitted: open-toed shoes, sandals, slippers, or slides
  - Shoes must have a hard-soled bottom
- **Identification Badges**
  - Each student will be issued a MWA ID badge and lanyard
  - Students are expected to wear the ID badge and lanyard around the collar at all times
    - *Students should NOT have ID badges hanging from pant pockets, belt loops, etc.*
  - Students are not allowed to decorate/deface ID badges
  - It is the student's responsibility to replace lost/willfully damaged ID badges. The ID badge replacement cost is \$5
- **Accessories (including vests, socks, belts, ties/bowties etc.)**
  - The following is not permitted for all visible clothing: inappropriate language, slogans, or symbols, including those associated with alcohol, drugs, vulgarity, gangs, illicit or illegal activities.
  - Hats, caps, beanies and gloves are allowed, but must be removed once a student enters a school building.
  - Religious headwear is permitted to be worn at all times.

## Attire for Special Designated Days

*Business Attire, Formal Wear, College Attire and Casual Dress Days*

### Professional Dress Days

Once each month, these days provide students with regular opportunities to demonstrate wearing appropriate attire for professional business environments. Ensuring that we prepare our students to appear confidently and appropriately in professional environments is the key to their success in the workplace and post-secondary education. The following clothes are appropriate for **professional dress and formal wear events (i.e. 8th Grade Promotion, awards ceremonies, etc):**

- Slacks, pants, or knee-length skirts in black, brown, navy blue or gray
- Formal blouses or long sleeved, buttoned up, collared dress shirts in white, pastels or neutral colors
- Blazers, suit jackets in black, brown, navy blue or gray
- Sweaters in black, brown, navy blue, gray, pastels or neutral colors are acceptable
- Suits and ties
- Formal dress shoes and a belt
- Jewelry should not detract from ability to learn or participate in on-campus activities

**\*Note: if a student does not own or cannot obtain business attire, standard dress code attire is acceptable.**

### College Attire Days

As part of our comprehensive efforts to develop a college-going culture at MWA, students have the opportunity to participate in weekly College Attire days **every Friday** to foster an early appreciation for and sense of pride related to colleges and universities of a student's choice or interest. On these days, students may wear the following attire:

- Any pants, skirts, shorts, bottoms, sweaters, hoodies, jackets, or accessories representing official colleges and universities.

### Casual Dress Days

MWA students have the opportunity to earn Casual Dress days to demonstrate individuality and personal responsibility through choosing their own attire on selected days. On These days, students may wear non-uniform clothing that adheres to the following guidelines:

- No ripped or tattered clothing
- No skin-baring tops or tank tops
- No inappropriate logos or images that depict illicit or illegal activity
- Bottoms may not be more than 3 inches above the knee

One Casual Dress day is awarded to the student body each month. Casual Dress days may also be earned for individual classes and grade levels that collectively demonstrate MWA's Core Values on campus and throughout the community. Casual Dress days are also earned for grade levels demonstrating attendance excellence (no more than two students absent within a grade) for two or more days in a school week.

# MWA Student Behavior Management and Restorative Justice Practices

MWA believes that each student has liberties that include freedom of expression (artistic, intellectual, individual), freedom from physical aggression, and freedom from concerns regarding personal safety in the school environment. Our model of student support is rooted in restorative justice, which focuses on building positive relationships, comprehensively addressing harm/conflict, and restoring relationships. Our model also asserts that students, especially students coming from urban environments, are not broken, but have valuable skill sets to be accessed. In honor of this approach to behavior management, MWA provides resources that target the development and acquisition of various skills (academic, intellectual, and socio-emotional) in preparation for collegiate and professional environments.

## Student Code of Conduct

Teaching and learning for all students is the highest priority. Therefore, one student's misbehavior will not be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of other students, or the teacher's responsibility to teach all students. In working to promote both academic and social development, MWA's school-wide behavior management policies are intended to uphold school-wide behavior and academic expectations. Students who fail to adhere to these expectations will be subject to an appropriate consequence.

## Classroom Management Policy

When a student does not follow classroom expectations, the following are strategies utilized by faculty to redirect behavior for positive individual and learning outcomes:

- Verbal warning: spoken cue to student that behavior is not appropriate
- "Pause" or "check-in": provision of time/space for student to reflect, de-escalate as necessary and make the choice to positively change their behavior
- Application of classroom consequences per teacher's classroom management system, listed in syllabus
- Parent/guardian contact by teacher
- Scheduling of parent/guardian conference by teacher, as needed
- Application of academic and/or behavioral intervention strategies by teacher

If the student does not positively redirect their behavior, the student will be issued a behavior referral and sent to the Dean of Students. The section below outlines the academy-wide behavior management model. The below chart represents a non-exhaustive list of examples of types of behavior and resulting consequences. Depending on the infraction, a single incident may constitute a suspendable or expellable infraction under the MWA Suspension and Expulsion Policy. The school will make every effort to support a student before utilizing consequences involving suspension and or expulsion\*.

\* A complete copy of MWA's Suspension and Expulsion Policy, including more detailed expulsion procedures, is included at the end of this handbook.

# School-Wide Behavior Management System

## Behavior Infraction Category: Level 1, Procedural

Behaviors that affect *only the student* exhibiting the behavior.

**Staff Oversight:** Teachers

### Procedural Infraction Examples:

- Not having appropriate equipment and materials-
- Sleeping in class-
- Gum chewing and unauthorized eating in classroom or hallways-
- Being off task, but not disrupting others-
- Improper use of school equipment or materials-
- Dress code violations-
- Truancy/Repeated lateness-
- Skipping/Cutting class
- Failing to follow a reasonable request of a staff member or volunteer-
- Non-Report to Detention-
- Usage or Possession of cell phone or other electronic device during school hours-
- Loitering in neighborhoods or restricted areas-
- Defiance of Authority

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense Intervention Range	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense Intervention Range	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense Intervention Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Action/ Conversation</li> <li>• Temporary or permanent loss of bus privileges based on MWA Bus Rider Agreement</li> <li>• Confiscation of device until the end of the school day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Action/ Conversation</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• Assign 1 Day Detention</li> <li>• Confiscation of device until Parent/ Guardian pick-up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Action/ Conversation</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/Assignment</li> <li>• Parent Shadow Requested</li> <li>• Loss of Privilege</li> <li>• Assign 2 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Two week device submittal to Front Office</li> </ul>

# School-Wide Behavior Management System (continued)

## Behavior Infraction Category: Level 2, Self-Management

Behaviors in the classroom or extended learning space *that interfere with the learning of others*

**Staff Oversight:** Teachers, Dean of Students (for ongoing infractions)

### Self-Management Infraction Examples:

- Horseplay-
- Being off campus or in an unauthorized area without permission-
- Inappropriate display of affection-
- Inappropriate/inadequate participation in school activities-
- Cheating, Academic dishonesty or plagiarism-
- Violations of the computer and network use policy not pertaining to Level IV infractions-
- Violation of Arrival/ Dismissal Policy or Closed Campus Policy-
- Out of Class or Off Campus without Permission-
- Forging a document/False documentation-
- Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense Intervention Range	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense Intervention Range	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense Intervention Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Circle with impacted students</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 1 Day Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Temporary or permanent loss of Bus privileges based on MWA Bus Rider Agreement</li> <li>• Zero credit for all incidents of cheating, academic dishonesty or plagiarism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Circle with impacted students</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 2 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Circle with impacted students</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 3 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Loss of privilege(s)</li> <li>• Parent Shadow Requested</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Behavior Plan Meeting</li> </ul>

# School-Wide Behavior Management System (continued)

## Behavior Infraction Category: Level 3, Disruptive

Disruptive behaviors that *negatively affect an orderly environment*.

**Staff Oversight:** Teachers, Dean of Students, Senior School Director

### Disruptive Infraction Examples:

- Disturbing another student in any way-
- Theft and/or the defacement or destruction of property-
- Possession of inappropriate literature, images, music, and/or videos-
- Profanity and/or abusive language-
- Disrespect/ non-compliance toward adults or peers-
- Possession of a non-lethal object (ie. Technology, explicit items) not allowed at school

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense Intervention Range	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense Intervention Range	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense Intervention Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Conference/Circle</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 1 Day Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Restorative Community Project</li> <li>• Campus Beautification Lunch and After-School</li> <li>• Referral to Dean of Students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Conference/ Circle</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/ guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 2 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Restorative Community Project</li> <li>• Campus Beautification Lunch and After-School</li> <li>• Parent Shadow Requested</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Referral to Dean of Students</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restorative Conference/Circle</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 3-5 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Restorative Community Project</li> <li>• Campus Beautification Lunch and After-School</li> <li>• Parent Shadow Requested</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Behavior Plan Meeting</li> <li>• Referral to Dean of Students</li> <li>• Loss of Privilege(s)</li> <li>• Parent conference with the Dean of Students</li> <li>• Student to present Restorative essay during Community Building Time/Advisory/Homeroom</li> <li>• Parent Shadow or Observation (Parents may be required to shadow or observe their student in the school setting should the student consistently not meet the behavioral expectation of the Academy)</li> </ul>

<i>Depending on the infraction and severity of the infraction, the following may also apply:</i>	<i>Depending on the infraction, the severity of the infraction, or when a repeat infraction occurs, the following may also apply:</i>	<i>Depending on the infraction, the severity of the infraction, or when a repeat infraction occurs, the following may also apply:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 Day loss of After-School Program privileges</li> <li>• 1-2 Day Suspension</li> <li>• Possible Report to Richmond Police Department (RPD) or mediation with a representative from RPD</li> <li>• Restitution (financial and otherwise) to target(s)/victim(s), for damage to or loss of personal or school property (whether damage/loss was intentional or unintentional)</li> <li>• Temporary or permanent loss of Bus privileges based on MWA Bus Rider Agreement</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian Conference with Senior School Director to discuss student placement at MWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-3 Day loss of After-School Program privileges</li> <li>• 2-3 Day Suspension</li> <li>• Possible Report to Richmond Police Department (RPD) or mediation with a representative from RPD</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian Conference with Senior School Director to discuss student placement at MWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 Day loss of After-School Program privileges(further infractions will result in After-School Programming privileges being revoked)</li> <li>• 3-5 Day Suspension</li> <li>• Possible Report to Richmond Police Department (RPD) or mediation with a representative from RPD</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian Conference with Senior School Director to discuss student placement at MWA</li> <li>• Ongoing disruptive infractions may result in a recommendation for expulsion</li> </ul>

# School-Wide Behavior Management System (continued)

## **Behavior Infraction Category: Level 4, Aggressive:**

Behaviors that impact the physical and/or mental safety of others and/or are illegal.

**Staff Oversight:** Dean of Students is the primary respondent with support from the Senior School Director.

Student may be:

- suspended for the maximum number of days allowable by law with the possibility of expulsion for all Level 4 infractions.
- required to complete a risk or threat assessment by a school-based mental health professional or primary care physician.

### Aggressive Infraction Examples:

- Unauthorized possession, sale, or otherwise furnishing of any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object-
- Intimidation/extortion/ threats –
- Hitting, grabbing, shoving-
- Fighting: assault or battery of any kind-
- Possession, sale, distribution, or use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, any controlled substance, or any intoxicant of any kind-
- Pulling a fire alarm without cause or otherwise making a false alarm-
- Harassment of any kind-
- Arson and possession/use of explosive devices-
- Hazing- Inappropriate sexual conduct-
- Violations of the computer or network use policies pertaining to Aggressive infractions

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense Intervention Range</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense Intervention Range</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense Intervention Range</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate Referral to Dean of Students</li> <li>• Restorative Conference/Circle</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 2 Day Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Restorative Community Project</li> <li>• Campus Beautification Lunch and After-School</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Loss of privilege</li> <li>• Parent conference with the Dean of Students</li> <li>• Student to present Restorative essay during Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate Referral to Dean of Students</li> <li>• Restorative Conference/Circle</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 3 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Restorative Community Project</li> <li>• Campus Beautification Lunch and After-School</li> <li>• Parent Shadow Requested</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate Referral to Dean of Students</li> <li>• Restorative Conference/Circle</li> <li>• Call Home (parent/guardian notification)</li> <li>• Skill Development Activity/ Assignment</li> <li>• 5 Days Lunch Detention</li> <li>• Restorative Community Project</li> <li>• Campus Beautification Lunch and After-School</li> <li>• Parent/Teacher Conference</li> <li>• Behavior Plan Meeting</li> <li>• Loss of Privilege(s)</li> <li>• Parent conference with the Dean of Students</li> </ul>



<p>Building Time/Advisory/Homeroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Shadow or Observation Requested</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of privilege(s)</li> <li>• Parent conference with the Dean of Students</li> <li>• Student to present Restorative essay during Community Building Time/Advisory/Homeroom</li> <li>• Parent Shadow or Observation (Parents may be required to shadow or observe their student in the school setting should the student consistently not meet the behavioral expectation of the Academy)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student to present Restorative essay during Community Building Time/Advisory/Homeroom</li> <li>• Parent Shadow or Observation (Parents may be required to shadow or observe their student in the school setting should the student consistently not meet the behavioral expectation of the Academy)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Depending on the infraction and severity of the infraction, the following may also apply:</i></p>	<p><i>Depending on the infraction, the severity of the infraction, or when a repeat infraction occurs, the following may also apply:</i></p>	<p><i>Depending on the infraction, the severity of the infraction, or when a repeat infraction occurs, the following may also apply:</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 Day loss of After-School Program privileges</li> <li>• 1-2 Day Suspension</li> <li>• Possible Report to Richmond Police Department (RPD) or mediation with a representative from RPD</li> <li>• Complete Substance Use/Abuse Education Program (where applicable)</li> <li>• Temporary or permanent loss of Bus privileges based on MWA Bus Rider Agreement</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian Conference with Senior School Director to discuss student placement at MWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-3 Day loss of After-School Program privileges 2-3 Day Suspension</li> <li>• Possible Report to Richmond Police Department (RPD) or mediation with a representative from RPD</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian Conference with Senior School Director to discuss student placement at MWA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 Day loss of After-School Program privileges(further infractions will result in After-School Programming privileges being revoked)</li> <li>• 3-5 Day Suspension</li> <li>• Possible Report to Richmond Police Department (RPD) or mediation with a representative from RPD</li> <li>• Parent/Guardian Conference with Senior School Director to discuss student placement at MWA</li> <li>• Ongoing aggressive infractions may result in a recommendation for expulsion</li> </ul>

## School Safety Policy Guidelines

It is the policy of MWA to provide a safe environment for students and staff by removing students whose actions cause a potential or continuing danger to students and/or staff. If a student commits any of the following infractions on or under school jurisdiction (while the student is at school, in route to or from school, or at a school-sponsored event/activity), the student **will be recommended for expulsion** from MWA:

- Possessing, selling, or otherwise furnishing a firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Division Director or designee's concurrence.
- Brandishing a knife at another person. As used in this section, "knife" means any dirk, dagger, or other weapon with a fixed, sharpened blade fitted primarily for stabbing, a weapon with a blade longer than 3 ½ inches, a folding knife with a blade (any size) that locks into place, or a razor with an unguarded blade.
- Unlawfully selling a controlled substance
- Committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900 or committing a sexual battery as defined in subdivision (n) of Section 48900.

**Fights/Threats/Bullying:** Students are encouraged and expected to take the following steps to resolve conflict instead of resulting to physical action, threats, or intimidation:

- Inform a Dean of Students, teacher, site monitor, security or any adult in the general vicinity.
- Walk away from the situation that appears to be escalating, then seek out assistance.
- Take deep breaths to help calm down.
- Request a conflict mediation meeting with the Dean of Students to help resolve potential conflicts.

Consequently, fighting, repeated threats to fight, or bullying as a means of creating or resolving conflicts will result in a recommendation for expulsion.

### **Controlled Substances (Drugs or Alcohol):**

The following circumstances can result in suspension and a possible recommendation for expulsion:

- Using, possessing, attempting to buy or selling a controlled substance (illegal drugs or alcohol) or being under the influence.
- Students possessing, attempting to buy, under the influence of, using or selling alcohol or other drugs or related paraphernalia at school or at a school event will be recommended for an Expulsion.
- Possession of tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigarettes (including electronic smoking devices, e-cigarettes, hookah pens) snuff and smokeless tobacco.

**(Please Note:** Any of the aforementioned offenses may be reported to the proper legal authorities. Further, repeated or severe violations of the school disciplinary policies may also result in a recommendation for expulsion as identified below in the Suspension and Expulsion Policy and Procedures.)

*The above school rules and regulations apply to all school activities, on or off campus, including school-sponsored activities and events, as well as in transport to/from school grounds.*

Submitting someone else's work as one's own, including that of tutors, friends, parents or siblings or paraphrasing *without giving credit to the source*:

- Turning in purchased papers or papers from the internet written by someone else
- Helping others plagiarize by sharing one's work, even if a student is unaware it will be copied
- Using someone else's idea *without giving credit to the original source*

**Note:** *Students can use other people's ideas and even paraphrase or quote their words, but they must give them credit in the writing.*

## Searches and Seizures

MWA is fully committed to promoting a safe learning environment. To ensure this, MWA will act in accordance with state law to provide procedures and policies with the goal of eliminating the possession and use of prohibited items, including weapons, controlled substances, or other dangerous items, by students on school premises and at school activities. As necessary to protect the health and welfare of students and staff, law enforcement, MWA security personnel, and/or Executive/Senior Leadership may search a student's personal property, and/or property belonging to MWA under the student's use and may seize illegal, unsafe, or otherwise prohibited items. A student and their belongings may be searched if there is reasonable suspicion that the student has violated or is violating the law or established school rules. Any illegal items and the possession of illegal items (as defined by state law and MWA's policies and guidelines) may be subject to law enforcement. Student lockers are MWA property and remain at all times under the control of MWA. The acceptance and use of locker facilities on MWA campus by any student shall constitute consent by the student to the search of such locker facilities by authorized MWA personnel and/or law enforcement. Inspections of lockers may be conducted by school personnel and/or law enforcement though the use of trained dogs as described above[c1] . Copies of the MWA Search and Seizure policy can be requested at the Middle and Upper School offices.

## Mental Health Services

MWA recognizes that unidentified and unaddressed, mental health challenges can lead to poor academic performance, increased likelihood of suspension and expulsion, chronic absenteeism, student attrition, homelessness, incarceration, and violence. Access to mental health services at MWA and in our community is not only critical to improving the physical and emotional safety of students, but it also helps address barriers to learning and provides support so that all students can learn problem-solving skills and achieve in school and, ultimately, in life. Our students can ask for support from MWA's division social worker by contacting the Main Office in person or by phone at 510-262-1511.

# Suicide Prevention and Intervention

The CDC reports that suicide is the second leading cause of death among people 10 to 34 years of age in the United States[i]. This policy outlines MWA's suicide prevention, intervention and postvention procedures to protect the health and well-being of all MWA students. Please see MWA's Death Policy for postvention procedures on how to respond to a student who has died by suicide or other circumstances. A full copy of the Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy can be found on the school website.

## Prevention Programming for Students

Students will participate in workshops and trainings that will inform them about the warning signs of suicide, symptoms of mental health disorders commonly experienced by adolescents, resources for mental health support, and how to access mental health services at MWA and in the community.

In order to be responsive to the needs of high-risk students, MWA will provide services to the following categories of students who are considered to be bereaved by suicide (not a comprehensive list):

- Youth experiencing homelessness or in out-of-home settings, such as foster care
- LGBTQI youth
- Youth experiencing traumatic stress

Services are provided through: case management, critical incident debriefings, grief support groups, group therapy, individual therapy, referrals for external support

## Risk Factors and Protective Factors

Risk factors for suicide are characteristics or conditions that increase the chance that a person may try to take her or his life. Suicide risk tends to be highest when someone has several risk factors at the same time. (<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/preventing-suicide/suicide-risk-factors/>)

FACTORS OF THE MIND AND BODY	FACTORS FROM THE ENVIRONMENT	FACTORS THAT A PERSON TAKES PART IN, EXPERIENCES OR LEARNS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• History or signs of depression</li><li>• History of mental illness</li><li>• History of being abused or mistreated</li><li>• History of self-injury</li><li>• Tendency to be impulsive</li><li>• Major physical illness</li><li>• Affective disorders (i.e. mood disorders)</li><li>• Previous suicide attempt(s)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Barriers to mental health services</li><li>• Lack of community support</li><li>• Homelessness</li><li>• A death or relationship breakup</li><li>• A job loss or change in financial security</li><li>• Feeling unsafe</li><li>• Family history of suicide</li><li>• High stress family environment or dynamic</li><li>• Academic or family crisis</li><li>• Easy access to lethal materials</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Risky health behaviors (e.g. substance abuse, unsafe sex practices, etc.)</li><li>• Lack of support from other youth</li><li>• Cultural or religious beliefs that suggest suicide as a solution</li><li>• Exposure to suicide through the media, family, friends or co-workers</li><li>• Unwillingness to seek help</li><li>• Non-suicidal self-injury</li><li>• Victimization at home or in school</li><li>• Difficulty in school, failing grades, bullying others</li></ul>

***It is important to bear in mind that the large majority of people with mental disorders or other suicide risk factors do not engage in suicidal behavior.***

Protective factors for suicide are characteristics or conditions that may help to decrease a person's suicide risk. While these factors do not eliminate the possibility of suicide, especially in someone with risk factors, they may help to reduce that risk. Protective factors for suicide have not been studied as thoroughly as risk factors, so less is known about them.

### **Protective factors for suicide include**

- Easy access to effective, culturally competent care
- Support from medical and mental health care professionals
- Coping, problem solving and conflict resolution skills
- Restricted access to highly lethal means of suicide (e.g. firearms)
- Strong connections to family members
- Connectedness to safe schools
- Academic, artistic, athletic achievements
- Nonviolent problem solving and conflict resolution
- Family acceptance for their sexual orientation and/or gender identity
- Positive connections with friends who share similar interests
- Cultural and religious beliefs that discourage suicide
- Positive role models and self esteem

***Note that protective factors do not entirely remove risk, especially when there is a personal or family history of depression or other mental disorders.***

## **Re-Entry Procedures**

When a student returns to school after a mental health crisis, the Dean(s) and a school mental health professional will meet with the student's parent/guardian and the student to discuss the process for re-entry and the student's readiness to return to school.

- A school mental health professional will coordinate mental health services with the student, parent/guardian, and external mental health care providers with authorization of exchange/release of information.
- The parent/guardian will provide documentation from a mental health care provider with the student's discharge plan that includes the hospitalization dates and contact information of the treating clinician.
- A school mental health professional will inform the senior leadership team of the support plan for the student.
- A school mental health professional or one of the Deans will share with the student's Grade Level Lead the support plan and accommodations or adjustments that should be put in place to help re-integrate the student back to school. If needed, MWA mental health professionals will work with the Special Education Coordinator to put in place an IEP or 504 plan for the student.
- A school mental health professional will assess the student's risk level for at least six weeks after hospitalization and will schedule periodic check-ins with the student and parents/guardians to help the student readjust to the school community and address any ongoing concerns. The student may engage in mental health treatment at MWA if they are not being provided by an external mental health care provider.

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[i] <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/suicide/statistics/>

# Expectant and Parenting Students

The MWA mission states, “Making Waves commits to rigorously and holistically preparing students to gain acceptance to and graduate from college to ultimately become valuable contributors to the workforce and their communities.” This statement is inclusive of expectant and parenting students. MWA encourages expectant and parenting students to continue their education while receiving necessary health, social service, and day care services. MWA recognizes that expectant and parenting students face challenges that may interfere with academic success and are entitled to accommodations that provide them with the opportunity to succeed academically while protecting their health and the health of their children. This policy outlines the protocol that MWA will utilize to best support expectant and parenting students.

A pregnant or parenting student is entitled to eight weeks of parental leave, or more if deemed medically necessary by the student’s physician, which the student may take before the birth of the student’s infant if there is a medical necessity and after childbirth during the school year in which the birth takes place, inclusive of any mandatory summer instruction, in order to protect the health of the student who gives or expects to give birth and the infant, and to allow the pregnant or parenting student to care for and bond with the infant. A pregnant or parenting student who does not wish to take all or part of the parental leave to which they are entitled shall not be required to do so. When a student takes parental leave, MWA will ensure that absences from the student’s regular school program are excused until the student is able to return to the regular school program or an alternative education program. MWA shall not require a pregnant or parenting student to complete academic work or other school requirements during the leave. A pregnant or parenting student may return to the school and the course of study in which the student was enrolled before taking parental leave.

Upon return to school after taking parental leave, a parenting student will be able to make up work missed during their leave, including, but not limited to, makeup work plans and re- enrollment in courses. Notwithstanding any other law, a pregnant or parenting student may remain enrolled for a fifth year of instruction in MWA if it is necessary in order for the student to be able to complete any graduation requirements, unless MWA determines that the student is reasonably able to complete the graduation requirements in time to graduate from high school by the end of the student’s fourth year of high school. If a student chooses not to return to MWA after taking parental leave, he or she is entitled to alternative education options offered by MWA. A pregnant or parenting student who participates in an alternative education program shall be given educational programs, activities, and courses equal to those he or she would have been in if participating in the regular education program. A student shall not incur an academic penalty as a result of the student’s use of the accommodations to which it is entitled under the law.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to pregnant or parenting students may be filed under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (“UCP”) of MWA. The complaint may be filed in writing with the UCP compliance officer:

Elizabeth Martinez, Chief of Staff and Acting Director of Human Resources  
4123 Lakeside Drive , Richmond, CA 94806  
(510) 262-1511, [compliance@mwacademy.org](mailto:compliance@mwacademy.org)

## What Does Federal Law Say?

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 stipulates the following in regards to expectant and/or parenting students:

- No rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status which treats students differently on the basis of sex shall be applied (5 CCR § 4950[C1] ; 34 CFR § 106.40(a)).
- Schools must treat pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom in the same manner and under the same policies as any other temporary disability with respect to any medical or hospital benefit, service, plan or policy MWA administers, operates, offers, or participates in with respect to MWA's students (5 CCR § 4950(d); 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(4)).
- A physician's note certifying that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation may be required only if such certification is required for all students for other physical or emotional conditions requiring the attention of a physician (5 CCR § 4950(b); 34 CFR § 106.40(b)(2)).
- Students are permitted to take a leave of absence for pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and recovery therefrom for so long a period of time as is deemed medically necessary by the student's physician, at the conclusion of which the student shall be reinstated to the status which she held when the leave began (34 CFR § 106.40(b)(5)).
- Students shall not be discriminated against or excluded from education programming or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom, unless the student requests voluntarily to participate in a separate portion of the program or activity of MWA. (34 CFR § 106.40(b)).
- A student may participate in a program or activity for pregnant students if provided by MWA, but participation must be completely voluntary and the separate program or activity must be comparable to that offered to non-pregnant students (34 CFR § 106.40(b)(3)).
- Requiring or refusing to allow a student to take a course or participate in a program on the basis of sex is prohibited (34 CFR § 106.34).
- Discriminatory counseling and use of materials that treat students differently on the basis of sex are prohibited (34 CFR § 106.36).
- Discrimination is prohibited in activities that are part of MWA's education program even if they are not directly run by MWA. Thus, a student cannot be excluded from a program such as student exchange, study abroad, or coursework programs on any basis prohibited by Title IX (34 CFR § 106.31(d)).

## Social Work Support

Students who are identified as expectant or parenting will be referred to MWA's Division Social Worker. The Division Social Worker will work alongside the student to ensure that MWA is providing academic and socio-emotional support in-school, in addition to referring the student to these types of support within the community. Once an expectant or parenting student is referred to the Division Social Worker, he/she will follow the protocol outlined below:

- The Division Social Worker will meet with the expectant and/or parenting student to assess the student's physical, mental, and emotional state. The Social Worker will review Title IX rights and confidentiality with the student. If the student consents, the Social Worker will set-up a meeting with the student, student's family, and school administrators.
- The Division Social Worker will collaborate with academic interventionists in order to develop a graduation plan with each expectant and/or parenting student, which will include maternity/paternity leave dates, academic goals, an academic plan, and academic and socio-emotional supports needed.
- The Division Social Worker will collaborate with school staff to ensure the delivery of support systems.
- The Division Social Worker will refer the student to community resources and supports that serve expectant and parenting students, including Cal-Safe Programs.

## School Adjustments

MWA will make reasonable adjustments to facilitate equal access and full participation of expectant and parenting students. Adjustments will be made on a case-by-case basis, and may include:

- Home-based study with support from teachers
- Online learning
- Class schedule flexibility
- Provide a private location where the student can pump milk
- Allow additional time for passing periods, lunch, pumping, and breastfeeding as needed

## Confidentiality

Expectant and parenting students have the right to have their health and personal information kept confidential. MWA staff should make every effort to keep personal information and health records confidential within the boundaries of applicable law. Here are some important guidelines to ensure confidentiality:

- Personal information students share with the Division Social Worker should be kept confidential.
- The Division Social Worker should encourage these youth to consider informing their parents of a pregnancy. However, the Division Social Worker/school staff may not disclose this information to the student's parents or force or coerce the youth to inform their parents, or any other individual, of any pregnancy or parenting related information.
  - Fear of disclosure prevents some minors from seeking services. When minors are assured that providers will respect their privacy and provide confidential care, they are more likely to seek care, especially reproductive healthcare. Generally, when a minor has the right to consent to treatment or testing, healthcare providers and school staff should keep information related to the service confidential. However, there are circumstances in which confidentiality may not be possible, including: cases of suspected child abuse or neglect, threats by the minor against self or others, cases where there is a serious risk to the minor's life or health (learning of a pregnancy or parenting status is not in and of itself a serious risk to the minor's life or health).

## Attendance

Every child between the ages of 6 and 18 has the right and the obligation to attend school. Expectant and parenting students have the same right and obligation under compulsory school attendance laws. This attendance right and obligation applies to students regardless of their marital or parental status. Below are important guidelines to monitor the attendance of expectant and/or parenting students.

- Students are entitled to an extended absence or leave of absence for reasons of pregnancy and related medical conditions, including pregnancy-related illness or health condition, childbirth, and recovery therefrom. The leave shall be for at least the duration deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed healthcare provider. Documentation from students' licensed healthcare providers may be required for verification of pregnancy and related medical conditions only if it is also required for absences due to other medical conditions. Student parents are also entitled to a fair and reasonable parental leave following the birth of a new child. That leave may be taken sequentially following pregnancy leave. The student's family, school staff and medical professionals shall specify a fair and reasonable term for parental leave with each expectant student.



- Students with excused absences or tardiness such as pregnancy-related illnesses or the medical care of related conditions shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for short-term disability or medical reasons. Students with excused absences shall be allowed to complete all assignments and tests missed, or a reasonable equivalent of the work missed, during the absences within a reasonable time period. Students shall be given full credit upon satisfactory completion of that work.
- A student who is the parent of a child shall be considered excused when their absence or tardiness is due to the illness or the medical appointment of their child or as a result of the student's pre- or post-natal medical conditions.
- A student who is the parent of a child shall also be considered excused due to lack of child care when the student has made a reasonable effort to secure and maintain reliable child care. The Division Social Worker will take part in determining whether the student has made a reasonable effort to secure child care. MWA requires verification of appointments from expectant students' licensed healthcare providers or the licensed healthcare providers for students' children, however, any such oral or written verification will not appear in the student's school records and shall be stored in a separate confidential file managed by the Division Social Worker.
- At the conclusion of a pregnancy and/or parental leave, students will be reinstated at MWA with the same status as before the leave began. MWA will support the continuation of learning during excused absence and leave with the supports listed above.

## Homeless Students

Liaison for Homeless, Foster and/or Mobile Youth: MWA Social Workers, 4123 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806, Ph. (510) 262-1511

The term "homeless children and youth" means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who (42 USC 11434a):

- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and/or
- Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition of "homeless."

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent/guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the MWA Liaison.

A copy of MWA's complete policy is located in the appendices section.

# Foster Youth

The term “foster youth” is defined as:

1. “Foster youth” refers to any child who has been removed from their home pursuant Welfare and Institutions Code section 309 and/or is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code section 300 or 602. This includes children who are the subject of cases in dependency court and juvenile justice court.
2. “Former juvenile court school students” refers to a student who, upon completion of the student’s second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to MWA.
3. “Child of a military family” refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.
4. “Currently Migratory Child” refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to MWA from another Local Educational Agency (“LEA”), either within California or from another state, in order that the child or a member of the child’s immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child’s eligibility for migrant education services. “Currently Migratory Child” includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.
5. “Student participating in a newcomer program” means a student who is participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant students that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency.

A copy of MWA’s complete policy is located in the appendices section.

# School Property and Personal Possessions

## Lockers and Locks

Students will be assigned a locker with a lock. Only locks provided by MWA will be used on the lockers. Students should keep the combination to themselves. There will be a \$5 replacement fee for any lost locks. Lockers are for your belongings and school supplies. Students are responsible for the organization and cleanliness of their locker. Lockers may be searched at any time by school officials to the extent allowed by law. As such, students:

- Should not have any unauthorized and/or illegal items such as weapons, cigarettes, drugs (even prescription drugs, which should be kept in the nurse’s office).
- Should not leave food in their locker as it attracts rodents and ants.
- Should not leave any PE clothing in the locker over the weekend.
- Should not leave any electronics, irreplaceable items or other valuables in their locker, including money.

## Textbooks

Students will be issued textbooks for their classes. Instructional materials are an expensive resource and MWA provides sufficient instructional materials in accordance with state law. Instructional materials provided for use by students remain the property of MWA. Students are responsible for returning borrowed materials in good condition, with no more wear and tear than usually results from normal use. Students are required to cover their textbooks. If a student textbook is found not under the possession of its owner on campus, it is returned to the Front Office and the parent/guardian is notified.

The parent/guardian of a minor student shall be liable for the replacement cost for any textbooks that the student fails to return or that is willfully cut, defaced or otherwise damaged. The cost of the textbook varies based on the subject matter and cost of shipping. Textbooks purchased by the student or

parent/guardian will not be accepted as a replacement in lieu of funds. If the student or parent/guardian are unable to return the property or pay for the damages, they can work with MWA Administration to work out a solution.

## Computer/Internet Use Policy

MWA provides internet access to students for educational purposes only. The use of the internet is necessary for many school research projects. Misuse of the internet or other MWA technology violates MWA Technology Acceptable Use Policy and subjects a student to school disciplinary consequences.

Guidelines:

- Students must complete a cyber-ethics and safety course every year.
- Students should have no expectation of privacy at any time while using MWA technology, nor at home when it pertains to school business.
- MWA is authorized to monitor the use of MWA technology including but not limited to email logs and internet histories of students and does so.
- Students may only use MWA technology, including its internet network, for appropriate educational purposes and research.
- Student access to the internet shall be for school related purposes only; students may not use the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers or other staff or in violation of the MWA Technology Acceptable Use Policy, which includes, but is not limited to the following prohibited actions:
  - a. Playing games or online gaming.
  - b. Downloading software, music, movies or other content in violation of licensing requirements, copyright or other intellectual property rights.
  - c. Installing software on MWA equipment without the permission of a teacher or other authorized MWA staff person.
  - d. Downloading, viewing or sharing inappropriate content, including pornographic, defamatory or otherwise offensive material.
  - e. Conducting any activity that is in violation of MWA policy, the student code of conduct or local, state or federal law.
  - f. Engaging in any activity that is harmful to other student(s), including the use of MWA technology to harass, intimidate, or bully or otherwise disrupt the educational process.
  - g. Using MWA technology to engage in political activities or conducting for-profit business.
  - h. Using hacking tools on the network or intentionally introducing malicious code or viruses into MWA's network.
  - i. Using any software or proxy service to obscure either the student's IP address or the sites that the student visits.
  - j. Disabling, bypassing, or attempting to disable or bypass any system monitoring, filtering or other security measures.
  - k. Accessing or attempting to access material or systems on the network that the student is not authorized to access.
- Students should use the internet/network only with the permission of designated school staff.
- Students should be considerate of other users on the network.
- Students must use appropriate language for school situations and must not use vulgar or profane language or images, including those with implied vulgarity and/or profanity.
- Students should immediately report any security problems or breaches of these responsibilities to the supervising teacher.
- Students must adhere to copyright laws and plagiarism rules when using the Internet; students should acknowledge the source of information included in their work.
- Students may not share user IDs and passwords required to access email and other programs.
- Students may not give out personal information about themselves or where they live.
- Students may not fill out forms on the Internet without parent/teacher permission.
- Students may not send pictures of themselves through email using MWA technology.
- Students may not have access to e-commerce or publicly provided Internet Service Providers or email services. Students will receive school email accounts upon teacher request and parent permission if the accounts are needed for educational projects.
- Students may not use proxy avoidance sites (sites that allow the user to bypass the Internet filter) or other sites indicated as blocked. Use of these sites violates MWA's Policy and could result in loss of internet access and/or other disciplinary actions.

- Students may not intentionally degrade or disrupt internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, unauthorized redirection of school web pages or violating copyright laws.
- Students may not work directly on teacher or MWA websites without express written permission from the MWA IT Director and an administrator..
- Students may not use MWA technology to construct websites using content or links that violate state or federal laws.
- Students should treat MWA technology with care and respect; no food or drink is allowed when using MWA technology.

**Note: To see the full MWA Technology Acceptable Use Policy, please request one from the front desk of the Middle School or Upper School.**

### Cell Phone/Electronics Policy

Middle School	Upper School
<p>At MWA students are not permitted to use a cell phone and/or electronic device during the school day. MWA believes cell phones and personal electronics are disruptive to the educational environment and therefore are restricted. If students are instructed to bring cell phones to school by the parent for safety reasons and to communicate with them before or after school, the cell phone must be turned off, not visible in a pocket or jacket, or stored in a backpack or locker. If any student is seen with a cell phone or found to be in possession of a cell phone or any other electronic device while at school and/or while riding school-provided transportation, <b>it can and will be confiscated.</b></p> <p>If students are seen with a cell phone or prohibited electronic devices, they will be warned to put it away. A second time a student is seen with a cell phone and or prohibited electronics it will be confiscated and kept until the end of the school day and the parent will be notified. From then on, the student will be asked to check their phone at the office at the beginning of the day and the student can pick it up at the end of the day when they are going home. The cell phone or prohibited electronic device can be confiscated whether or not the student is the owner of the phone or not. Cell phones and electronics may be confiscated from students by any MWA staff. If additional infractions occur involving a cell phone or electronic device, the student will be subject to more severe consequences.</p> <p>In cases where it is necessary for students to bring a cell phone on campus, cell phones should be checked-in to the Front Office safe upon arrival to school and picked up at the end of the school day.</p>	<p>Upper school students are permitted to use a cell phone and/or electronic devices on campus, during break, lunch, and passing periods only. MWA believes that cell phones/electronics are disruptive to the educational environment and therefore are completely restricted during instructional time (unless specifically authorized by a teacher for instructional purposes). All cell phone and electronic devices should be turned off and not visible during instructional time. Students using a cellphone or electronic device during an authorized time will have the item confiscated.</p> <p>If additional infractions occur involving a cell phone, headphones/earbuds, or other electronic device, the student will be subject to escalation intervention-including loss of privileges.</p> <p>In cases where a student has lost the privilege of having a cellphone/electronic device in their personal possession during the school day and a parent/guardian is concerned about safety, then the parent/guardian should contact the Dean of Students or designee.</p>
<p>At no time shall MWA be responsible for preventing theft, loss or damage to cell phones, pagers, or other electronic devices brought onto campus or school-provided transportation. Notwithstanding the above rules, no student shall be prohibited from possessing or using a cell phone or electronic device in an emergency, in response to a perceived threat of danger, as required by the student's IEP</p>	

or when it is determined by a licensed physician and surgeon to be essential for the health of the student and use of which is limited to purposes related to the health of the student.

## Visitor Policy/Guidelines

Partnership between MWA, parents/guardians and families are essential to support student achievement. To promote family involvement, community building, and academic growth, parents/guardians and educational advocates are always welcome on campus, on the condition that they adhere to the visitor policy outlined below.

All visitors are expected to provide a state-issued identification card, read and sign a copy of the Visitor Policy/Guidelines and return to front office staff prior to being approved for visit.

*Visitors who are not parents or guardians of currently enrolled students*, including but not limited to former students, former employees, family members of current students and siblings who are not currently enrolled at MWA are required to adhere to the following procedures:

**All campus visitors must have the prior consent and approval of the school leader or their designee.**

- Visitors may request school leader consent through the front office or by contacting the front office at 510-262-1511.
- The request should include the purpose of the visit, dates, and times of the visit and the specific classroom or student being observed.
- Immediately upon arriving on campus, all visitors must check in at the front office to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass.
- All visitors must wear a visitor's pass in a visible place throughout the duration of their stay on campus.
- All visitors must sign out upon the completion of their visit and return their visitor's badge.

If the visitor is a government officer/official (including but not limited to local law enforcement officers, immigration enforcement officers, social workers, district attorneys, or U.S. attorneys) the officer/official will also be asked to produce any documentation that authorizes school access. MWA shall make reasonable efforts to notify parents/guardians prior to permitting a student to be interviewed or searched, consistent with the law and/or any court order, warrant or instructions from the officer/official. A copy of the documentation provided by the officer and notes from the encounter may be maintained by MWA, consistent with the law. The MWA Board of Directors and Bureau of Children's Justice in the California Department of Justice, at [BCJ@doj.ca.gov](mailto:BCJ@doj.ca.gov), will be timely informed regarding any attempt by a law-enforcement officer to access a school site or a student for immigration-enforcement purposes, as recommended by the Attorney General.

## Visitor Conduct While on Campus

To maintain a safe and productive learning environment for students and staff, we request that visitors adhere to the following:

- Enter and leave the classroom as quietly as possible.
- Do not converse with students, teachers or other instructional assistants during the visit unless given permission.
- Keep the length and frequency of classroom visits reasonable, based on the activity being observed.
- No electronic listening or recording device may be used in a classroom without the Director's or designee's permission.

### Administrator Authority

All visitors who enter MWA and fail to adhere to the visitor policy or who defy the school policy and administration's authority may be reported to the appropriate police agency and may be subject to criminal charges.

### Parent/Guardian Rights

- Parents have the right to observe classrooms in which their child is enrolled after making a request in advance, within a reasonable timeframe.
- Parents have the right to request a meeting with a classroom teacher, the school Director or their designee after observing their student.

### Parents/Guardians, Visitors Shall Not:

- Willfully interfere with the behavior management, order or conduct in any classroom or school activity with the intent to disrupt, obstruct, or inflict damage to property or bodily injury to any person.
- Disrupt class work, extracurricular activities or cause disorder in a place where a school employee is required to perform their duties.
- Willfully interfere with or disregard any safety-related operations and procedures (e.g. moving traffic cones for convenience), including for student sign-out, arrival and dismissal.

### Removal of Visitors

- Administration may refuse to register a visitor if it is believed that the presence of the visitor would cause a threat of disruption, physical injury to staff members or students, and or threaten of destruction of property.
- Administration may withdraw consent to be on campus whenever there is reason to believe that the person has willfully disrupted or is likely to disrupt MWA's orderly operation. If consent is withdrawn by someone other than the Senior School Director, they may reinstate consent for the visitor if he/she believes that the person's presence will not constitute a disruption or substantial and material threat to MWA's orderly operation. Consent can be withdrawn for up to fourteen (14) days.

- Administration may request that a visitor who has failed to register, or whose registration privileges have been denied or withdrawn, promptly leave school grounds. When a visitor is directed to leave, Administration shall inform the visitor that if he/she reenters MWA without following the posted requirements he/she will be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Any visitor that is denied registration or has their registration revoked may request a conference with the Senior School Director. The request shall be in writing, shall state why the denial or revocation was improper, shall give the address to which notice of conference is to be sent, and shall be delivered to the Senior School Director within 14 days of the denial or revocation of consent. The Senior School Director shall promptly mail a written notice of the date, time, and place of the conference to the person who requested the conference. A conference with them shall be held within seven days after they receive the request. If no resolution can be agreed upon, the Senior School Director shall forward notice of the complaint to the MWA Board of Directors. The MWA Board of Directors shall address the Complaint at the next regular board meeting and make a final determination.
- At each entrance to the campus, signs shall be posted specifying the hours during which registration is required, stating where the office of the Director or designee is located, and what route to take to that office, and setting forth the penalties for violation of this Policy.
- Administration shall seek the assistance of the police in managing or reporting any visitor in violation of this policy.

## Volunteer Criminal Background Checks and Tuberculosis Testing

As required by law, all individuals working or volunteering at MWA will be required to submit to a criminal background investigation. No condition or activity will be permitted that may compromise MWA's commitment to the safety, and the well-being of students takes precedence over all other considerations. Conditions that preclude volunteering at MWA include conviction of a controlled substance or sex offense, or a serious or violent felony. Additionally, should a volunteer, during their volunteer service with MWA, be convicted of a controlled substance or sex offense, or serious or violent felony, the volunteer must immediately report such a conviction to the Managing Director of Human Resources.

All volunteers of MWA whose functions require frequent or prolonged contact with students [C1] must submit written proof from a physician of a risk assessment examination for tuberculosis (TB) within the last sixty (60) days. If TB risk factors are identified, a physician must conduct an examination to determine whether the volunteer is free of infectious TB. The examination for TB consists of an approved TB test, which, if positive, will be followed by an x-ray of the lungs, or in the absence of skin testing, an x-ray of the lungs. All volunteers whose functions require frequent or prolonged contact with students will be required to undergo TB risk assessments and, if risk factors are found, the examination at least once every four (4) years. The costs of the TB risk assessment and, if indicated, the examination will be borne by the volunteer. Food handlers may be required to have annual TB exams. Documentation of volunteer compliance with TB risk assessments and examinations will be kept on file in the HR office.

# All-School Emergency Evacuation Plan

MWA has a detailed comprehensive safety and emergency plan. A copy of the plan may be requested at MWA front offices. In the case of an emergency, it is important that students listen to, and follow exactly, the instructions given by any MWA staff member or emergency personnel.

## All-School Lockdown Drill

In the event of a dangerous situation, crisis in process or stranger on campus, “Lockdown Campus” would be declared by the Chief Executive Officer, Senior School Director or designee.

The procedure for the lock down as facilitated by faculty and staff is as follows:

- “Lockdown School” is announced over the PA system,
- Staff will quickly check outside their rooms to allow any nearby staff or students to enter before locking the door.
- Doors are locked. Lights are turned off. Windows are covered.
- All students and staff will duck out of sight, cover and remain in place until notified that the need for lockdown is over.

If your students feel anxiety as a result of this drill, students are encouraged to speak with any on-site psychological counselor or staff member.

## Notice of Pipeline Hazard

An 8-inch diameter liquid petroleum pipeline, owned and operated by Kinder Morgan Energy, Partners, LP traverses the western portion of the MWA property, primarily behind Building 2 (4131 Lakeside Drive). J House Environmental, Inc. prepared a pipeline hazard analysis to identify potential safety hazards associated with school facility operations in proximity to this pipeline.

This analysis concluded, “The Kinder-Morgan refined petroleum product pipeline that traverses the western portion of the 4123 and 4131 Lakeside Drive site is not anticipated to pose a significant safety hazard to students or staff at the proposed charter school.”

A copy of the complete 26-page pipeline hazard analysis is available for viewing at the Front Office, MWA, 4123 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA.



# Appendices

# Appendix A: Student-Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment Form

Please complete, detach and return to homeroom or advisor teacher

**(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

**Student Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wave** \_\_\_\_\_

The MWA Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook is designed to promote and support student success by outlining the important policies, procedures and expectations of the Academy.

We are requiring that all parents and guardians read and review MWA's Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook with their student and return this cover sheet acknowledging that this document has been received and read.

**I have received and read a copy of the MWA Student-Parent/Guardian Handbook. I understand that if I have any questions about the Handbook, I may consult the Division Director and/or designee(s).**

Student Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B: Parent/Guardian and Student Commitment Form

<b><i>Student Commitment</i></b>	<b><i>Parent/Guardian Commitment</i></b>
<p><b>As a student I will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set goals</li> <li>• Be a scholar</li> <li>• Make mistakes and learn from them</li> <li>• Arrive at school on time ready to learn</li> <li>• Reflect on and evaluate my performance</li> <li>• Act with truthfulness, kindness, and respect</li> <li>• Treat all people with respect, kindness, and dignity</li> <li>• Put forth my best effort to be the best Wave-Maker I can be</li> <li>• Discover and develop my voice, my talents, and my strengths</li> <li>• Discover and develop my value to the group, MWA, and the community</li> <li>• Take responsibility for my actions, my relationships, my community, and my environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>As a parent/guardian I will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take primary responsibility for behavior management</li> <li>• Work to develop in my student good behavior habits as well as proper attitudes regarding school-life and life in general by teaching through example</li> <li>• Work with school officials to resolve any behavior management incident in a patient, objective, and fair manner</li> <li>• Attend parent/guardian -conference sessions and mandatory monthly meetings</li> <li>• Actively monitor and assist with my student's progress</li> <li>• Communicate and work closely with MWA staff</li> <li>• Communicate with all MWA staff in a professional and respectful manner</li> </ul>
<hr/> <p>Student Name (Print)</p>	<hr/> <p>Student Name (Print)</p>
<hr/> <p>Student Signature</p>	<hr/> <p>Parent/Guardian Name (Print)</p>
<hr/> <p>Date</p>	<hr/> <p>Parent/Guardian Signature</p>
	<hr/> <p>Date</p>

# Appendix C: Professional Boundaries: Staff/Student Interaction Policy

MWA recognizes its responsibility to make and enforce all rules and regulations governing student and employee behavior to bring about the safest and most learning-conducive environment possible.

## **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a student.

For purposes of this policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to property.

For clarification purposes, the following examples are offered for direction and guidance of School personnel:

- A. Examples of PERMITTED actions (NOT corporal punishment)
  - 1. Stopping a student from fighting with another student;
  - 2. Preventing a student from committing an act of vandalism;
  - 3. Defending yourself from physical injury or assault by a student;
  - 4. Forcing a student to give up a weapon or dangerous object;
  - 5. Requiring an athletic team to participate in strenuous physical training activities designed to strengthen or condition team members or improve their coordination, agility, or physical skills;
  - 6. Engaging in group calisthenics, team drills, or other physical education or voluntary recreational activities.
- B. Examples of PROHIBITED actions (corporal punishment)
  - 1. Hitting, shoving, pushing, or physically restraining a student as a means of control;
  - 2. Making unruly students do push-ups, run laps, or perform other physical acts that cause pain or discomfort as a form of punishment;
  - 3. Paddling, swatting, slapping, grabbing, pinching, kicking, or otherwise causing physical pain.

## **Acceptable and Unacceptable Staff/Student Behavior**

This policy is intended to guide all School faculty and staff in conducting themselves in a way that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees and to specify the boundaries between students and staff.

Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders. One viable standard that can be quickly applied, when you are unsure if certain conduct is acceptable, is to ask yourself, "Would I be engaged in this conduct if my family or colleagues were standing next to me?"

For the purposes of this policy, the term "boundaries" is defined as acceptable professional behavior by staff members while interacting with a student. Trespassing the boundaries of a student/teacher relationship is deemed an abuse of power and a betrayal of public trust.

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parent point of view. The objective of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students, but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff must understand their own responsibility for ensuring that they do not cross the boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established boundaries will be considered irrelevant for disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is crucial that all employees learn this policy thoroughly and apply the lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors to their daily activities. Although sincere, competent interaction with students certainly fosters learning, student/staff interactions must have boundaries surrounding potential activities, locations and intentions.

### **Duty to Report Suspected Misconduct**

When any employee reasonably suspects or believes that another staff member may have crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must immediately report the matter to a school administrator. All reports shall be as confidential as possible under the circumstances. It is the duty of the administrator to investigate and thoroughly report the situation. Employees must also report to the administration any awareness or concern of student behavior that crosses boundaries or where a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

**Examples of Specific Behaviors**, the following examples are not an exhaustive list:

### **Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors (Violations of this Policy)**

- (a) Giving gifts to an individual student that are of a personal and intimate nature.
- (b) Kissing of any kind.
- (c) Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student in a private situation.
- (d) Meeting with students for a non-school purpose, or intentionally being alone with one (1) or more students away from MWA.
- (e) Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- (f) Sexual jokes.
- (g) Seeking emotional involvement with a student for your benefit.
- (h) Listening to or telling stories that are sexually oriented.
- (i) Discussing inappropriate personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- (j) Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.
- (k) Being in communication with a student outside of school hours unless it is pertaining to specific classroom assignments or student club activity responsibilities.

### **Unacceptable Staff/Student Behaviors without Parent and Supervisor Permission**

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a staff member has parent and supervisor permission.)

- (a) Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities.
- (b) Being alone in a room with a student at school with the door closed.
- (c) Allowing students in your home.

### **Cautionary Staff/Student Behaviors**

(These behaviors should only be exercised when a reasonable and prudent person, acting as an educator, is prevented from using a better practice or behavior. Staff members should inform their supervisor of the circumstance and occurrence prior to or immediately after the occurrence)

- (a) Remarks about the physical attributes or development of anyone.
- (b) Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- (c) Sending emails, text messages or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.

**Acceptable and Recommended Staff/Student Behaviors**

- (a) Getting parents' written consent for any after-school activity.
- (b) Obtaining formal approval to take students off school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- (c) Emails, text, phone and instant messages to students must be very professional and pertaining to school activities or classes (Communication should be limited to school technology).
- (d) Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- (e) Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- (f) Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- (g) Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- (h) Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.
- (i) Asking for advice from fellow staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to boundaries.
- (j) Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with the student.
- (k) Informing the Managing Director of Human Resources about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- (l) Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- (m) Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students or coworkers.
- (n) Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any type of special needs student.
- (o) Asking another staff member to be present when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- (p) Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- (q) Pats on the back, high fives and handshakes are acceptable.
- (r) Keeping your professional conduct a high priority.
- (s) Asking yourself if your actions are worth your job and career.

# Appendix D: Annual Notices for Academic Programs

## California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (“CAASPP”)

MWA shall annually administer required state testing to the applicable grades (e.g., the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a parent’s or guardian’s written request to school officials to excuse their child from any or all parts of the state assessments shall be granted.

## Teacher Qualifications

All parents may request information regarding the professional qualifications of classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals.

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

MWA aims to provide all students in our school significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps while abiding by guidelines within the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (“ESEA”). MWA staff recognizes a partnership with families is essential to meet this goal. Our Parent and Family Engagement Policy leverages and promotes active involvement of all families as partners with schools to ensure student success. A copy of the MWA’s complete Policy is available upon request in the main office.

## Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of the instructional program at MWA. Homework assignments increase appropriately in quantity and variety as a student progresses each year. Homework reinforces classroom studies and helps to develop student capacity to do independent work. Students will be given a planner and are required to use it daily for recording homework assignments. Students are expected to complete homework neatly, on time and with a parent signature (as required by the teacher). Any problems or concerns regarding the completion of homework should be communicated with the classroom teacher.

In the event of an unplanned absence, students are expected to request and make arrangements to complete homework that was due on the day(s) they were absent upon their return to school. Accepting late homework due to unexcused absences is the discretion of the teacher. For every day of an excused absence, students have that number of days to turn in late assignments.

## Cal Grant Program Annual Notice

MWA is required by state law to submit the GPA of all high school seniors by October 1 of each year, unless the student over age 18 or parent/guardian for those under 18 opt out. Students currently in eleventh (11th) grade will be deemed a Cal Grant applicant, unless the student (or parent, if the student is under 18) has opted out by or before February 1, 2021.

## Upper School Interscholastic Athletics Program Annual Notice

Interscholastic Athletic Participation is an enriching co-curricular opportunity for the students in the Upper School. While all students are welcomed to try out and participate, there are expectations set by the Bay Area Conference (BAC), North Coast Section (NCS) and California Intercollegiate Federation (CIF), the three governing bodies for our participation in high school athletics. In addition, MWA has expectations for its student athletes as well. Participation in athletics helps teach resilience, teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship, dedication, perseverance, fitness, and so much more. Please be advised that parents/guardians must sign a concussion/head injury information sheet on a yearly basis if their student is an athlete on any of the MWA’s athletic teams. This does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical

education course. For eligibility and participation requirements, please review our MWA Athletics Participation Policy located at the upper and middle school offices.

- For a full list of sports offered at MWA, visit our Athletics Page on the MWA website

## Concussion/Head Injuries

A concussion is a brain injury that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head, or by a blow to another part of the body with the force transmitted to the head. Even though most concussions are mild, all concussions are potentially serious and may result in complications including prolonged brain damage and death if not recognized and managed properly. Because MWA Upper School has elected to offer an athletic program, we must immediately remove from a school-sponsored athletic activity for the remainder of the day an athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury during that activity. The athlete may not return to that activity until he or she is evaluated by, and receives written clearance from, a licensed healthcare provider. If the licensed health care provider determines the athlete has a concussion or head injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider. On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet must be signed and returned by the athlete and the athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition. This requirement does not apply to an athlete engaging in an athletic activity during the regular school day or as part of a physical education course.

## Sudden Cardiac Arrest

MWA is invested in the health of its athletes, especially their heart health. Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops beating, suddenly and unexpectedly. Those wishing to participate in athletics at MWA must review the information sheet on sudden cardiac arrest via the link below and provided prior to participation:

([http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0115/1081/Sudden\\_Cardiac\\_Arrest\\_Info\\_.pdf](http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0115/1081/Sudden_Cardiac_Arrest_Info_.pdf).)

## English Learners

MWA is committed to the success of its English learners and support will be offered both within academic classes and in supplemental settings for students who need additional support for English language learning. MWA will meet all applicable legal requirements for English learners as they pertain to annual notification to parents, student identification, placement, program options, English learners and core content instruction, teacher qualifications and training, reclassification to fluent English proficient status, monitoring and evaluating program effectiveness, and standardized testing requirements. MWA will implement policies to assure proper placement, evaluation, and communication regarding English learners and the rights of students and parents.

## Availability of Health Insurance

Children—regardless of immigration status (including foster youth, pregnant girls, and legally present individuals, including those with deferred action for childhood arrivals ["DACA"] status) may be eligible for no- or low-cost Medi-Cal insurance. Medi-Cal covers immunizations, checkups, specialists, vision and dental services, and more for children and youth at no- or low-cost. Medi-Cal enrollment is available year-round. Covered California allows legal residents of California to compare quality health plans and choose one that works best. Based on income and family size, many Californians may qualify for financial assistance.

[http://hbex.coveredca.com/toolkit/PDFs/ALL\\_IN\\_Flyer\\_EnrollGetCareRenew\\_CC.pdf](http://hbex.coveredca.com/toolkit/PDFs/ALL_IN_Flyer_EnrollGetCareRenew_CC.pdf)

MWA shall not discriminate against a student who does not have health care coverage or use any information relating to a student's health care coverage or interest in learning about health care coverage in any manner that would bring harm to the student or the student's family.

## Sexual Health Education

MWA offers comprehensive sexual health education to its students. A parent or guardian of a student has the right to excuse their child from all or part of comprehensive sexual health education, HIV prevention education, and assessments related to that education through a passive consent ("opt-out") process. MWA does not require



active parental consent (“opt-in”) for comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education. Parents and guardians may:

- Inspect written and audiovisual educational materials used in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education.
- Excuse their child from participation in comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education in writing to MWA.
- Be informed whether the comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education will be taught by MWA personnel or outside consultants. When MWA chooses to use outside consultants or to hold an assembly with guest speakers to teach comprehensive sexual health or HIV/AIDS prevention education, be informed of:
  - The date of the instruction
  - The name of the organization or affiliation of each guest speaker
- Request a copy of Education Codes 51930 through 51939.

Anonymous, voluntary, and confidential research and evaluation tools to measure students’ health behaviors and risks may be administered to students. A parent or guardian has the right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey (“opt-out”). Parents or guardians shall be notified in writing that this test, questionnaire, or survey is to be administered, given the opportunity to review the test, questionnaire, or survey if they wish, notified of their right to excuse their child from the test, questionnaire, or survey, and informed that in order to excuse their child they must state their request in writing to MWA.

A student may not attend any class in comprehensive sexual health education or HIV prevention education, or participate in any anonymous, voluntary, and confidential test, questionnaire, or survey on student health behaviors and risks, if MWA has received a written request from the student’s parent or guardian excusing the student from participation. An alternative educational activity shall be made available to students whose parents or guardians have requested that they not receive the instruction or participate in the test, questionnaire, or survey.

## Tests on Personal Beliefs

Unless a parent or guardian gives written permission, a student will not be given any test, questionnaire, survey, or examination containing any questions about the student’s, or their parents’ or guardians’ personal beliefs or practices in sex, family life, morality, or religion.

## California Healthy Kids Survey

MWA will administer the California Healthy Kids Survey (“CHKS”) to those students whose parents provide written permission. The CHKS is an anonymous, confidential survey of school climate and safety, student wellness, and youth resiliency that enables MWA to collect and analyze data regarding local youth health risks and behaviors, school connectedness, school climate, protective factors, and school violence.

## Animal Dissections

Students at MWA perform animal dissections as part of the science curriculum. Any student who provides their teacher with a written statement, signed by their parent/guardian, specifying the student’s moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals, or any parts thereof, may be excused from such activities if the teacher believes that an adequate alternative education project is possible. The alternative education project shall require a comparable time and effort investment by the student. It shall not, as a means of penalizing the student, be more arduous than the original education project. The student shall not be discriminated against based upon their moral objection to dissecting or otherwise harming or destroying animals, or any parts thereof. Students choosing an alternative educational project shall pass all examinations of the respective course of study

in order to receive credit for that course of study. However, if tests require the harmful or destructive use of animals, a student may, similarly, request alternative tests as set forth above.

## Diabetes Annual Notification to Parents

MWA will provide an information sheet regarding type 2 diabetes to the parent or guardian of incoming 7th grade students, pursuant to Education Code Section 49452.7. The information sheet shall include, but shall not be limited to, all of the following:

1. A description of type 2 diabetes.
2. A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes.
3. A recommendation that students displaying or possibly suffering from risk factors or warning signs associated with type 2 diabetes should be screened for type 2 diabetes.
4. A description of treatments and prevention of methods of type 2 diabetes.
5. A description of the different types of diabetes screening tests available.

The information sheet can be found at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/type2diabetes.asp>

# Appendix E: Anti-Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Title IX Policy

MWA is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying. MWA will not condone or tolerate discrimination or harassment of any type, including bullying, or intimidation, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which it does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer.

As used in this policy, discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are described as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication or cyber-bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of mental or physical disability, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions, and parental status), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration status, nationality (including national origin, country of origin, and citizenship), race or ethnicity (including ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, ethnic background, and traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twist), religion (including agnosticism and atheism), religious affiliation, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, age or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this Policy. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct prohibited by this policy."

MWA will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of misconduct prohibited by this policy and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted, including those on social networking sites and communication devices.

All complaints of misconduct prohibited by this policy will be treated seriously. Students are expected to guide all of their actions with others using the MWA Core Values. Material that is considered verbally or physically threatening, obscene, racist, discriminatory, will not be tolerated. MWA will address misconduct prohibited by this policy, which includes but is not limited to harassment in social networking threatening posts and/or correspondence, that comes to the attention of MWA. MWA reserves the right to access and review any and all information in accordance with the law and MWA policies in an attempt to preserve the safety, health, and overall well-being of the student.

To the extent possible, MWA will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond to, and address any reports of such behaviors in a timely manner. MWA staff who witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this policy will take immediate steps to intervene, when safe to do so.

Moreover, MWA will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by this policy by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which MWA does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This policy applies to all employees, students, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. MWA will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of such misconduct prohibited by this policy and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.

## **Title IX, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Bullying Coordinator:**

Dean of Students  
4123 Lakeside Drive  
Richmond, CA 94806  
Ph. (510) 262-1511

## **Prohibited Unlawful Harassment**

- Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments or slurs;
- Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with school because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
- Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment;
- Deferential or preferential treatment based on any of the protected characteristics above.

## **Prohibited Unlawful Harassment under Title IX**

Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et. seq; 34 C.F.R. § 106.1 et. seq) and California state law prohibit harassment on the basis of sex. In accordance with these existing laws, discrimination on the basis of sex in education institutions is prohibited. All persons, regardless of sex, are afforded equal rights and opportunities and freedom from unlawful discrimination in education programs or activities conducted by MWA.

MVA is committed to providing an educational environment free of sexual harassment and considers such harassment to be a major offense, which may result in disciplinary action.

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcomed sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (a) Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's education, academic status, or progress; (b) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis of educational or academic decisions affecting the individual; (c) the conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance, or of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; and/or (d) submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the educational institution.

It is also unlawful to retaliate in any way against an individual who has articulated a good faith concern about sexual harassment against him/her or against another individual.

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

Physical assaults of a sexual nature, such as:

- Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults and
- Intentional physical conduct that is sexual in nature, such as touching, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against another's body, or poking another's body

Unwanted sexual advances, propositions or other sexual comments, such as:

- Sexually oriented gestures, notices, remarks, jokes, or comments about a person's sexuality or sexual experience
- Preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment to an individual for submitting to sexual conduct, including soliciting or attempting to solicit any individual to engage in sexual activity for compensation or reward or deferential treatment for rejecting sexual conduct
- Subjecting or threats of subjecting a student to unwelcome sexual attention or conduct or intentionally making the student's academic performance more difficult because of the student's sex

Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the educational environment, such as:

- Displaying pictures, cartoons, posters, calendars, graffiti, objections, promotional materials, reading materials, or other materials that are sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic or bringing or possessing any such material to read, display or view in the educational environment
- Reading publicly or otherwise publicizing in the educational environment materials that are in any way sexually revealing, sexually suggestive, sexually demeaning or pornographic, and
- Displaying signs or other materials purporting to segregate an individual by sex in an area of the educational environment (other than restrooms or similar rooms)

The illustrations of harassment and sexual harassment above are not to be construed as an all-inclusive list of prohibited acts under this Policy.

## What is Bullying?

“Bullying” means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act. Bullying includes one or more acts committed by a student or group of students that may constitute as sexual harassment, hate violence and/or creates an intimidating and/or hostile educational environment directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing a reasonable student or students in fear of harm to that student or those students’ person or property.
2. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
3. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with their academic performance.
4. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantial interference with their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by MWA.

\* “Reasonable student” is defined as a student, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs student, who exercises care, skill and judgment in conduct for a person of their age, or for a person of their age with their exceptional needs.

## What is Cyberbullying?

“Cyberbullying” is an electronic act that includes the transmission of harassing communication, direct threats, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social media, or other technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyberbullying also includes breaking into another person’s electronic account and assuming that person’s identity in order to damage that person’s reputation.

“Electronic Act” means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
2. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
  - a. Posting to or creating a burn page. A “burn page” means an Internet website created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in the definition of “bullying,” above
  - b. Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of “bullying,” above. “Credible impersonation” means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would

- reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated
- c. Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in the definition of "bullying," above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile.
3. An act of "cyber sexual bullying" including, but not limited to:
    - a. The dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a student to another student or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in definition of "bullying," above. A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.
    - b. "Cyber sexual bullying" does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.
  4. Notwithstanding the definitions of "bullying" and "electronic act" above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet

### **Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures**

MWA has adopted the following procedures for preventing acts of bullying, including cyberbullying.

#### **1. Cyberbullying Prevention Procedures**

MWA advises students:

- A. To never share passwords, personal data, or private photos online.
- B. To think about what they are doing carefully before posting and by emphasizing that comments cannot be retracted once they are posted.
- C. That personal information revealed on social media can be shared with anyone including parents, teachers, administrators, and potential employers. Students should never reveal information that would make them uncomfortable if the world had access to it.
- D. To consider how it would feel receiving such comments before making comments about others online.

MWA informs Charter School employees, students, and parents/guardians of MWA's policies regarding the use of technology in and out of the classroom. MWA encourages parents/guardians to discuss these policies with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with such policies.

#### **2. Education**

MWA employees cannot always be present when bullying incidents occur, so educating students about bullying is a key prevention technique to limit bullying from happening. MWA advises students that hateful and/or demeaning behavior is inappropriate and unacceptable in our society and at MWA and encourages students to practice compassion and respect each other.

MWA educates students to accept all student peers regardless of protected characteristics (including but not limited to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identification, physical or cognitive disabilities, race, ethnicity, religion, and immigration status) and about the negative impact of bullying other students based on protected characteristics.

MWA's bullying prevention education also discusses the differences between appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and includes sample situations to help students learn and practice appropriate behavior and to develop

techniques and strategies to respond in a non-aggressive way to bullying-type behaviors. Students will also develop confidence and learn how to advocate for themselves and others, and when to go to an adult for help.

MWA informs MWA employees, students, and parents/guardians of this Policy and encourages parents/guardians to discuss this Policy with their children to ensure their children understand and comply with this Policy.[C4]

### **3. Professional Development**

MWA annually makes available the online training module developed by the California Department of Education pursuant Education Code section 32283.5(a) to its certificated employees and all other MWA employees who have regular interaction with students.

MWA informs certificated employees about the common signs that a student is a target of bullying including:

- Physical cuts or injuries
- Lost or broken personal items
- Fear of going to school/practice/games
- Loss of interest in school, activities, or friends
- Trouble sleeping or eating
- Anxious/sick/nervous behavior or distracted appearance
- Self-destructiveness or displays of odd behavior
- Decreased self-esteem

MWA also informs certificated employees about the groups of students determined by MWA, and available research, to be at elevated risk for bullying. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth (“LGBTQ”) and those youth perceived as LGBTQ; and
- Students with physical or learning disabilities.

MWA encourages its employees to demonstrate effective problem-solving, anger management, and self-confidence skills for MWA’s students.

## **Reporting**

All staff are expected to provide appropriate supervision to enforce standards of conduct and, if they observe or become aware of misconduct prohibited by this Policy, to intervene as soon as it is safe to do so, call for assistance, and report such incidents. The Board requires staff to follow the procedures in this policy for reporting alleged acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy.

Any student who believes they have been subject to misconduct prohibited by this Policy or has witnessed such prohibited misconduct is encouraged to immediately report any act such misconduct to the Coordinator. Complaints regarding such misconduct may also be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. Civil law remedies, including, but not limited to, injunctions, restraining orders, or other remedies or orders may also be available to complainants.

While submission of a written report is not required, the reporting party is encouraged to submit a written report and may use the report form available in the Front Office and at the end of this handbook. However, oral reports shall also be considered official reports. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action cannot be based solely on an anonymous report. Students are expected to report all incidents of misconduct prohibited by this policy or other verbal or physical abuses. Any student who feels she/he is a target of such behavior should immediately contact a teacher, counselor, administrator, staff person or a family member so that she/he can get assistance in resolving the issue in a manner that is consistent with this policy.

MWA acknowledges and respects every individual's right to privacy. All reports shall be investigated in a manner that protects the confidentiality of the parties and the integrity of the process. This includes keeping the identity of the reporter confidential, as appropriate, except to the extent necessary to carry out the investigation and/or to resolve the issue, as determined by the Coordinator or administrative designee on a case-by-case basis.

MWA prohibits any form of retaliation against any reporter in the reporting process, including but not limited to a reporter's filing of a complaint or the reporting of misconduct prohibited by this policy. Such participation shall not in any way affect the status, grades or work assignments of the reporter. All supervisors of staff will receive sexual harassment training within six months of their assumption of a supervisory position and will receive further training once every two years thereafter. All staff will receive sexual harassment training and/or instruction concerning sexual harassment as required by law.

## Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of misconduct prohibited by this policy from a student, staff member, parent, volunteer, visitor or affiliate of MWA, the Coordinator or administrative designee will promptly initiate an investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Coordinator or administrative designee will notify the complainant of the outcome of the investigation. However, in no case may the Coordinator or administrative designee reveal confidential student information related to other students or employees, including the type and extent of behavior management issued against such students or employees.

- Complaints shall be investigated and resolved within 30) school days, unless circumstances reasonably require additional time.
- All records related to any investigation of misconduct prohibited by this policy will remain in a secure location in the Front Office of MWA.
- In those instances when the complaint filed under this policy also requires investigation under the Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP), such investigation will be undertaken concurrently. A person reporting misconduct prohibited by this Policy may submit a UCP complaint form pursuant to the MWA UCP policy at any time during the grievance process to formalize their complaint in writing.

## Appeal

Should the complainant find the Senior School Director or designee's resolution unsatisfactory, he/she may within five school days of the date of resolution, file an appeal with the Designated Appeals Committee. In such cases, at least three certificated MWA employees who are unfamiliar with the case and who have been previously designated and trained for this purpose shall be assembled to conduct a confidential review of the complainant's appeal and render a final disposition.

## Consequences

Students or employees who engage in misconduct prohibited by this policy are subject to disciplinary action; students may receive behavior management up to and including suspension or expulsion. Bullying by **any individual** at MWA is strictly prohibited. MWA will report all abuse to the appropriate legal authorities as required by the law.

In addition, any student involved who engages in misconduct prohibited by this policy, regardless of their role, may be required to participate in the following:

- *Bullying Education:* Participation in a specific number of bullying workshop sessions centered around bullying education (i.e. statistics, prevalence, impact of bullying).
- *Restorative Justice:* Specific activities aimed to address and repair the damage caused to the MWA community by bullying (i.e. write an essay on the harmful effects of bullying and present an essay to the MWA community).
- *Psychological Services:* A specific number of individual or group counseling sessions facilitated by a therapeutic clinician.



# Appendix F: Nondiscrimination Statement

MWA does not discriminate against any student or employee on the basis of actual or perceived:

- Race (including traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and hairstyle, including but not limited to braids, locks, and twists);
- Color;
- Gender, (including gender identity, gender expression, and transgender identity, whether or not the employee is transitioning or has transitioned);
- Sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and medical conditions related to such);
- Religious creed (including religious dress and grooming practices);
- Marital/registered domestic partner status;
- Age (forty (40) and over);
- National origin or ancestry (including native language spoken and possession of a driver's license issued to persons unable to prove their presence in the U.S. is authorized by federal law);
- Physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS);
- Medical condition (including cancer and genetic characteristics);
- Taking of a leave of absence pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act ("FMLA"), Pregnancy Disability Leave ("PDL") law, Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"), the Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA"), or laws related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking laws;
- Genetic information;
- Sexual orientation;
- Military and veteran status; or
- Any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws.

MWA adheres to all provisions of federal law related to students with disabilities, including, but not limited to, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 ("IDEIA").

MWA does not discourage students from enrolling or seeking to enroll in MWA for any reason, including, but not limited to, academic performance, disability, neglect or delinquency, English proficiency, for being homeless or a foster/mobile youth, economic disadvantage, nationality, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. MWA shall not encourage a student currently attending MWA to disenroll or transfer to another school based on any of the aforementioned reasons except in cases of expulsion and suspension or involuntary removal in accordance with MWA's charter and relevant policies.

MWA does not request nor require student records prior to a student's enrollment.

MWA shall provide a copy of the California Department of Education Complaint Notice and Form to any parent, guardian, or student over the age of 18 at the following times: (1) when a parent, guardian, or student over the age of 18 inquires about enrollment; (2) before conducting an enrollment lottery; and (3) before disenrollment of a student.

MWA is committed to providing a work and educational atmosphere that is free of unlawful harassment under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex); Titles IV, VI, and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, or national origin); The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; The Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the IDEIA; and Section 504 and Title II of the ADA (mental or physical disability). MWA also prohibits sexual harassment, including cyber sexual bullying, and harassment based upon pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, race or ethnicity, religion, religious affiliation, creed, color, immigration status, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. MWA does not condone or tolerate harassment of any type, including discrimination, intimidation, or bullying, including cyber sexual bullying, by any employee, independent contractor or other person with which MWA does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This applies to all employees, students, or volunteers and relationships, regardless of position or gender. MWA will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of harassment and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission or participation in MWA's programs or activities. MWA prohibits retaliation against anyone who files a complaint or who participates in a complaint investigation.

Inquiries, complaints, or grievances regarding harassment as described in this section, above, should be directed to the MWA Uniform Complaint Procedures ("UCP") Compliance Officer:

Elizabeth Martinez, Chief of Staff and Acting Director of Human Resources  
4123 Lakeside Drive , Richmond, CA 94806  
(510) 262-1511, [compliance@mwacademy.org](mailto:compliance@mwacademy.org)

# Appendix G: Directory Information, FERPA, and Student Records

## Definitions

### Education Record

An education record is any information recorded in any way, including, but not limited to, handwriting, print, computer media, video or audio tape, film, microfilm, and microfiche containing information directly relating to a student and is maintained by MWA or by a party acting for MWA. Such information includes, but is not limited to:

- Date and place of birth; parent and/or guardian's address, mother's maiden name and where the parties may be contacted for emergency purposes;
- Grades, test scores, courses taken, academic specializations and school activities;
- Special education records;
- Disciplinary records;
- Medical and health records;
- Attendance records and records of past schools attended; and/or
- Personal information such as, but not limited to, a student's name, the name of a student's parent or other family member, student identification numbers, social security numbers, photographs, biometric record or any other type of information that aids in identification of a student.

An education record does not include any of the following:

- Records that are kept in the sole possession of the maker, are used only as a personal memory aid, and are not accessible or revealed to any other person except a temporary substitute for the maker of the record;
- Records maintained by a law enforcement unit of MWA that were created by that law enforcement unit for the purpose of law enforcement;
- In the case of a person who is employed by MWA but not in attendance at MWA, records made and maintained in the normal course of business, relate exclusively to the individual in that individual's capacity as an employee; and are not available for any other purpose;
- Records on a student who is 18 years of age or older, or is attending an institution of postsecondary education, that are: a) made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in their professional capacity or assisting in a paraprofessional capacity; b) made, maintained, or used only in connection with treatment of the student; and c) disclosed only to individuals providing the treatment. For the purpose of this definition, "treatment" does not include remedial educational activities or activities that are part of the program of instruction at MWA;
- Records that only contain information about an individual after he or she is no longer a student at MWA; or
- Grades on peer-graded papers before they are collected and recorded by a teacher.

### Personally Identifiable Information

Personally identifiable information is information about a student that is contained in their education records that cannot be disclosed without compliance with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. § 1232g) ("FERPA"). Personally identifiable information includes, but is not limited to: a student's name; the name of a student's parent/guardian or other family member; the address of a student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's Social Security number, student number or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other

information that, alone or in combinations, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or information requested by a person who the MWA reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

### **Directory Information**

MWA may disclose the personally identifiable information that it has designated as directory information, consistent with the terms of the annual notice provided by MWA pursuant to FERPA . MWA has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Student's address
- Parent/guardian's address
- Telephone listing
- Student's electronic mail address
- Parent/guardian's electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)

### **Parent**

Parent means a parent of a student and includes a natural parent, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent in the absence of a parent or a guardian.

### **Eligible Student**

Eligible student means a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age.

### **School Official**

A school official is a person employed by MWA as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the Board of Directors of MWA. A school official also may include a volunteer or an independent contractor of MWA or other party who performs an institutional service or function for which MWA would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of MWA with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing their tasks.

### **Legitimate Educational Interest**

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility.

## Disclosure of Directory Information

At the beginning of each school year, MWA shall provide parents and eligible students with a notice containing the following information: 1) The type of personally identifiable information it designates as directory information; 2) The parent's or eligible student's right to require that MWA not release "directory information" without obtaining prior written consent from parent or eligible student; and 3) The period of time within which a parent or eligible student must notify MWA in writing of the categories of "directory information" that it may not disclose without the parent's or eligible student's prior written consent. MWA will continue to honor a valid request to opt out of the disclosure of a former student's directory information made while the former student was in attendance unless the student rescinds the opt out request.

## Annual Notification to Parents and Eligible Students

At the beginning of each school year, in addition to the notice required for directory information, MWA shall provide eligible students currently in attendance and parents of students currently in attendance with a notice of their rights under the FERPA. The notice shall inform the parents and eligible students that they have the right to:

- Inspect and review the student's education records;
- Seek amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes to be inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights;
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that disclosure is permitted without prior written consent pursuant to FERPA;
- File with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by MWA to comply with the requirements of FERPA and its promulgated regulations; and
- Request that MWA not release student names, addresses and telephone listings to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent.

The notice must also include the following:

- The procedure for exercising the right to inspect and review educational records;
- The procedure for requesting amendment of records;
- A statement that MWA forwards education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer; and
- The criteria for determining who constitutes a school official and what constitutes a legitimate educational interest.

## Parental and Eligible Student Rights Relating to Educational Records

Parents and eligible students have the right to review the student's education records. In order to do so, parents and eligible students shall submit a request to review education records in writing to the MWA Director. Within five (5) business days, MWA shall comply with the request.

### **Copies of Education Records**

MWA will provide copies of requested documents within five business days of a written request for copies. MWA may charge reasonable fees for copies it provides to parents or eligible students. However, no charge shall be made for furnishing: 1) up to two transcripts of former students' records or 2) up to two verifications of various records of former students. The charge will not include a fee to search for or to retrieve the education records.

## **Request for Amendment to Education Records**

A parent/guardian may use a student record challenge to appeal a suspension of a student which has already been served.

To challenge a student's education record, a parent/guardian must file a written request with the Chief Executive Officer to correct or remove any information recorded in the student's education record that is any of the following:

1) inaccurate; 2) misleading; or 3) in violation of the privacy rights of the student.

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of a written request from a parent, the Chief Executive Officer or their designee must meet with the parent/guardian or eligible student and the certificated employee who recorded the information in question, if any. The Chief Executive Officer must then sustain or deny the parent/guardian or eligible student's request to amend the records and provide a written statement of the decision to the parent/guardian or eligible student within forty-five (45) days of the receipt of request to amend. If MWA decides not to amend the record as requested, it shall inform the parent or eligible student of their right to a hearing.

## **Hearing to Challenge Education Record**

If MWA denies a parent or eligible student's request to amend an education record, the parent or eligible student may, within thirty (30) days of the denial, request in writing that he/she be given the opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the student's education records on the grounds that the information contained in the education records is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the privacy rights of the student.

The Chief Executive Officer or the Board President may convene a hearing panel to assist in making determinations regarding educational record challenges provided that the parent has given written consent to release information from the student's records to the members of the panel convened. The hearing panel shall consist of the following persons:

- The MWA Director or designee of a public school other than the public school at which the record is on file;
- A certificated employee;
- A parent appointed by the Chief Executive Officer or by the Board of Directors, depending upon who convenes the panel.

The hearing to challenge the education record shall be held within thirty (30) days of the date of the request for a hearing. Notice of the date, time and place of the hearing will be sent by MWA to the parent or eligible student no later than 2 days before the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted by the Chief Executive Officer or their designee, who shall not be required to use formal rules of evidence or procedure. The parent or eligible student will be given a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues relating to the challenge to the education record. The parent or eligible student may also, at their own expense, be assisted or represented by one or more individuals of their choice, including an attorney. The decision of the Chief Executive Officer or their designee will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing and is final. Within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing, MWA's decision regarding the challenge will be made in writing and will include a summary of the evidence and the reasons for the decision.

If, as a result of the hearing, the MWA decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of the student, it will amend the record accordingly and inform the parent or eligible student of the amendment in writing.

If, as a result of the hearing, MWA decides that the information in the education record is not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of the student, it shall inform the parent or eligible student of the right to place a statement in the record commenting on the contested information in the record or stating why he/she disagrees with the decision of MWA, or both. If MWA places a statement by the parent or eligible student in the education records of a student, it will maintain the statement with the contested part of the record for as long as the record is maintained and disclose the statement whenever it discloses the portion of the record to which the statement relates.

### **Disclosure of Education Records and Directory Information**

MWA must have a signed and dated written consent from the parent or eligible student before releasing any non-directory information from a student's education record except as provided below. The written permission must specify the records that may be disclosed, the purpose of the disclosure and the party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made. When disclosure is made pursuant to written permission, the parent or eligible student may request a copy of the disclosed records and MWA shall provide him or her with a copy of the records disclosed upon request. Signed and dated written consent may include a record and signature in electronic form if it identifies and authenticates a particular person as the source of the electronic consent and indicates such person's approval of the information contained in the electronic consent.

MWA will only disclose personally identifiable information on the condition that the receiving party not disclose the information to any party without the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student and that the receiving party use the information for the purposes for which the disclosure was made. This restriction does not apply to disclosures that fall within the disclosure exceptions listed below. MWA must maintain the appropriate records related to these disclosure exceptions, as described below. Except for disclosures pursuant to a warrant, judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena, or directory information or to parents or eligible students, the MWA will inform a receiving party of the requirement that the party not disclose the information to any other party without the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student and that the receiving party use it for the purpose for which the disclosure was made. Note specifically that MWA will not release information to third parties for immigration-enforcement purposes, except as required by law or court order.

MWA will disclose education records, without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student, to the following parties:

- School officials who have a legitimate educational interest as defined by 34 C.F.R. Part 99;
- Other schools to which a student seeks or intends to enroll so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer. When a student transfers schools, MWA will mail the original or a copy of a student's cumulative file to the receiving district or private school within ten (10) school days of following the date the request is received from the public school or private school where the student intends to enroll. MWA will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or eligible student of the request for records at their last known address, unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible student. Additionally, MWA will give the parent or eligible student, upon request, a copy of the record that was disclosed and give the parent or eligible student, upon request, an opportunity for hearing pursuant to Section (IV)(3) above;
- Certain government officials listed in 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1) in order to carry out lawful functions;
- Appropriate parties in connection with a student's application for, or receipt of, financial aid if it is necessary to determine eligibility, amount of aid, conditions for aid or enforcing the terms and conditions of the aid;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for the MWA in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(b)(1)(F);
- Accrediting organizations in order to carry out their accrediting functions;
- Parents of a dependent student as defined in section [152 of the Internal Revenue Code](#) of 1986;

- Individuals or entities, in compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. Subject to the exceptions found in 34 C.F.R. 99.31(a)(9)(i), reasonable effort must be made to notify the parent or eligible student of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance, so that the parent or eligible student may seek a protective order;
- Persons who need to know in cases of health and safety emergencies;
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law;
- A foster family agency with jurisdiction over a currently enrolled or former student, a short-term residential treatment program staff responsible for the education or case management of a student, and a caregiver (regardless of whether the caregiver has been appointed as the student's educational rights holder) who has direct responsibility for the care of the student, including a certified or licensed foster parent, an approved relative or non-related extended family member, or a resource family, may access the current or most recent records of grades, transcripts, attendance, behavior management, and online communication on platforms established by MWA for student and parents, and any individualized education program ("IEP") or Section 504 plan that may have been developed or maintained by MWA; and/or
- A victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense. The disclosure may only include final results of the disciplinary proceedings conducted by MWA with respect to that alleged crime or offense. MWA may disclose the final results of the disciplinary proceeding, regardless of whether MWA concluded a violation was committed.

### **Record-Keeping Requirements**

MWA will maintain a record of each request for access to and each disclosure of personally identifiable information from the education records of each student for as long as the records are maintained. For each request, the record must include the following information: the parties who have requested or received the information and the legitimate interests the parties had in requesting or obtaining the information.

For disclosures of personally identifiable information to institutions that make disclosures of the information on behalf of MWA in accordance with 34 C.F.R. 99.33(b), the record must include the names of the additional parties to which the receiving party may disclose the information on behalf of MWA and the legitimate interests that each of the additional parties has in requesting or obtaining the information.

These record keeping requirements do not apply to requests from or disclosure to parents or eligible students, MWA officials with a legitimate purpose of inspecting the records, a party with written consent from the parent or eligible student, a party seeking directory information, or a party seeking or receiving the records as directed by a court order or subpoena.

The records relating to disclosures of personally identifiable student information may be inspected by parents and eligible students, MWA officials (or their assistants) responsible for the custody of the records, and parties authorized by regulations for the purpose of auditing the recordkeeping procedures of MWA.

Student cumulative records may not be removed from the premises of the MWA, unless the individual removing the record has a legitimate educational interest, and is authorized by the MWA Director, or by a majority of a quorum of the Board of Directors at a duly agendized meeting. Employees who remove student cumulative records or other student records from the MWA premises without a legitimate educational interest and authorization may be subject to behavior management. Employees are permitted to take student work-product, or other appropriate student records, off premises without authorization for legitimate academic purposes (e.g. grading work-product, assigning credit, reviewing materials for classroom discussion, etc.)

Complaints



Parents and eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by MWA to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

# Appendix H: Uniform Complaint Procedures (“UCP”)

## Annual Notice

MWA has the primary responsibility to insure compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations and has established procedures to address allegations of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, and complaints alleging violation of state or federal laws governing educational programs, including the charging of unlawful student fees, non-compliance with the Local Control Funding Formula (“LCFF”), and non-compliance with reasonable accommodations for lactating students.

MWA shall investigate and seek to resolve complaints using policies and procedures known as the Uniform Complaint Procedure (“UCP”) adopted by our local board. Unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying complaints may be based on actual or perceived characteristics of age, ancestry, color, ethnic group identification, gender expression, gender identity, gender, genetic information, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, disability, nationality, national origin, immigration status, race or ethnicity, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or on a person’s association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, in any MWA program or activity that receives or benefits from state financial assistance.

The UCP shall also be used when addressing complaints alleging failure to comply with state and/or federal laws in:

- Adult Education
- Consolidated Categorical Aid Programs
- Migrant Education
- Student Fees
- Career Technical and Technical Education and Training Programs
- Child Care and Developmental Programs
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Foster and Homeless Youth Services
- Every Student Succeeds Act / No Child Left Behind Act Programs
- Special Education Programs
- Safety Planning Requirements
- Pregnant, Parenting or Lactating students
- Local Control Funding Formula/Local Control and Accountability Plan
- Juvenile Court School students
- Students from Military Families
- Migratory students

A complaint of noncompliance with laws relating to student fees may be filed pursuant to the local UCP. A student enrolled in a public school shall not be required to pay a student fee for participation in an educational activity. A student fee includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:

- A fee charged to a student as a condition for registering for school or classes, or as a condition for participation in a class or an extracurricular activity, regardless of whether the class or activity is elective or compulsory, or is for credit.
- A security deposit, or other payment, that a student is required to make to obtain a lock, locker, book, class apparatus, musical instrument, clothes, or other materials or equipment.
- A purchase that a student is required to make to obtain materials, supplies, equipment, or clothes associated with an educational activity.
- A student fee complaint shall not be filed later than one year from the date the alleged violation occurred.

Complaints of noncompliance with laws relating to student fees may be filed with the Compliance Officer or the Director of MWA. A complaint regarding student fees may be filed anonymously if the complaint provides evidence or information to support an allegation of noncompliance with laws relating to student fees.

Complaints other than complaints relating to student fees must be filed in writing with the following compliance officer:

Elizabeth Martinez, Chief of Staff and Acting Director of Human Resources  
4123 Lakeside Drive , Richmond, CA 94806  
(510) 262-1511, [compliance@mwacademy.org](mailto:compliance@mwacademy.org)

Complaints alleging discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, must be filed within six months from the date the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, occurred or the date the complainant first obtained knowledge of the facts of the alleged discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, unless the time for filing is extended by the compliance officer or their designee in writing.

Complaints will be investigated and a written decision or report will be sent to the complainant within 60 days from the receipt of the complaint. This 60-day time period may be extended by written agreement of the complainant. The compliance officer responsible for investigating the complaint shall conduct and complete the investigation in accordance with California regulations and in accordance with MWA's procedures.

The complainant has a right to appeal MWA's decision to the California Department of Education (CDE) by filing a written appeal within 15 days of receiving the decision. The appeal must include a copy of the complaint filed with MWA and a copy of MWA's decision.

Civil law remedies may be available under state or federal discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying laws, if applicable. In appropriate cases, an appeal may be filed pursuant to Education Code Section 262.3. A complainant may pursue available civil law remedies outside of MWA's complaint procedures. Complainants may seek assistance from mediation centers or public/private interest attorneys. Civil law remedies that may be imposed by a court include, but are not limited to, injunctions and restraining orders.

A copy of the UCP policy and complaint procedures is available free of charge in the Front Offices. For further information on any part of the complaint procedures, including filing a complaint or requesting a copy of the complaint procedures, please contact the front office or the compliance officer listed above. The UCP Form is included at the end of this handbook.

# Appendix I: Uniform Complaint Procedure Form

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name/MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/Apt. #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Office of Alleged Violation: \_\_\_\_\_

**For allegation(s) of noncompliance, please check the program or activity referred to in your complaint, if applicable:**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated Categorical Programs         | <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition Programs   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Technical Education and Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Education  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care & Development Programs       | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Fees                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Control Funding Formula/ Local Control and Accountability Plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foster/Homeless Youth                   | <input type="checkbox"/> No Child Left Behind Prog.                | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety Planning  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant, Parenting or Lactating students | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile Court School students                                       |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Every Student Succeeds Act                | <input type="checkbox"/> Students from Military Families                                      |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Migratory students   |

**For allegation(s) of unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying, please check the basis of the unlawful discrimination, harassment, intimidation or bullying described in your complaint, if applicable:**

- |                                 |  |   |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Age                             | Gender / Gender Expression / Gender Identity | Sex (Actual or Perceived)   |
| Ancestry                        | Genetic Information                          | Sexual Orientation (Actual or Perceived)  |
| Color                           | Nationality/National Origin                  | Based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics |
| Disability (Mental or Physical) | Race or Ethnicity                            |   |
| Ethnic Group Identification     | Religion/Religious Affiliation               |   |
| Immigration Status/Citizenship  |  |   |

Medical Condition

Marital Status

1. Please give facts about the complaint. Provide details such as the names of those involved, dates, whether witnesses were present, etc., that may be helpful to the complaint investigator.

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2. Have you discussed your complaint or brought your complaint to any Charter School personnel? If you have, to whom did you take the complaint, and what was the result?

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3. Please provide copies of any written documents that may be relevant or supportive of your complaint.

I have attached supporting documents.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail complaint and any relevant documents to:

Elizabeth Martinez, Chief of Staff and Acting Director of Human Resources  
4123 Lakeside Drive , Richmond, CA 94806  
(510) 262-1511, [compliance@mwacademy.org](mailto:compliance@mwacademy.org)

# Appendix J: Anti-Bullying, Harassment, Intimidation, Discrimination and Title IX Complaint Form

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Alleged Incident(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person(s) you have a complaint against: \_\_\_\_\_

List any witnesses that were present: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the incident(s) occur? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the events or conduct that are the basis of your complaint by providing as much factual detail as possible (i.e. specific statements; what, if any, physical contact was involved; any verbal statements; what did you do to avoid the situation, etc.) (Attach additional pages, if needed):

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**I hereby authorize MWA to disclose the information I have provided as it finds necessary in pursuing its investigation. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true and correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further understand providing false information in this regard could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

## **To be completed by the MWA:**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Meeting with Complainant held on: \_\_\_\_\_

# Appendix K: Suspension and Expulsion Policy and Procedures

## General Principles

MWA is committed to educating students in an environment of safety, behavior management and high achievement for all students. As a result, MWA makes significant efforts to help students understand the rules of comportment at MWA, the self-behavior management necessary for success in school and the community, and the way to interact with other students, staff and community members in a respectful and positive manner.

MWA develops and maintains a comprehensive set of student behavior management policies. These policies are printed and distributed as part of the school's student handbook. This handbook is available in English and Spanish and clearly describes the school's expectations regarding attendance, mutual respect, work habits, safety, fighting, violence and substance use, as well as MWA's policies regarding the grounds for suspension or expulsion. Each student and their parent/guardian is required to verify that they have reviewed and understand the policies prior to enrollment. MWA's Board of Directors, staff and school community reviews our comportment policy each year.

MWA has increased its use of restorative justice practices to replace suspensions. The aim is to help students identify and understand some of the motivations behind their choices. Restorative circles and conferences are aimed at addressing communication issues, personal injuries, and social emotional development. MWA utilizes a combination of traditional behavior management practices and increasing restorative justice practices. MWA wants to limit suspension as a means of student behavior management when possible.

## Responsibilities of Parties

### Student Responsibilities

- Read, understand and follow the MWA school rules and regulations;
- Submit to the authority of teachers, administrators and classified employees who have student supervisory assignments with respect to student behavior during school activities;
- Demonstrate good behavior while on MWA grounds, while going to and from school, during the lunch period, and during or while going to or coming from a school-sponsored activity;
- Respond to MWA staff in a fashion that shows individual respect;
- Read and understand the behavior management policies outlined in the MWA handbook and posted in classrooms. If a rule or policy is unclear, request that the faculty member explain its meaning.

### Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Read and understand school rules and regulations relating to behavior management;
- Discuss all components of the school Comportment Policy with the student;
- Work with the school to modify and correct unacceptable student behavior;
- Respond to MWA staff in a timely and respectful manner.

### Teacher Responsibilities

- Support and enforce all MWA rules and regulations fairly within classrooms, halls and campus;
- Communicate with and respond to students and parents in a timely and timely manner;

- Propose, participate, and recommend conferences with parents/guardians, counselors and administrators concerning students with serious behavioral problems;
- Report to the Senior School Director or deans all serious or willful acts of misconduct by students and other individuals;
- If appropriate, give detentions for tardiness, unexcused absences, minor behavior infractions, or institute other appropriate consequences for these kinds of behaviors.

### **Administrator Responsibilities**

- Administration shall inform teachers of each student has engaged in or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in any of the acts listed in Education Code Section 49079 and the corresponding enumerated offenses listed in the MWA Suspension and Expulsion Policy. Administration shall provide the information to teachers based upon any written records that the school maintains in its ordinary course of business or receives from a law enforcement agency;
- Communicate with and respond to students and parents in a fashion that shows individual respect;
- Issue suspensions and detentions for those students who demonstrate unacceptable behavior and who fail to honor this policy;
- Give suspensions from one to five consecutive school days to students when other means of correction fail to bring about good conduct or when the action of that student presents a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the educational process;
- Monitor at-risk students with 10 or more days of suspension, and keep parents/guardians informed about corrective actions being instituted to assist students to improve behavior.

### **Community Responsibilities**

- On a limited basis, the community police may cooperate with the MWA administration in the investigation of incidents where the law may have been violated.

## **Suspension and Expulsion Policy and Procedures**

This student Suspension and Expulsion Policy has been established in order to promote learning and protect the safety and well being of all students at MWA. In creating this policy, MWA has reviewed Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* which describes the non-charter schools' list of offenses and procedures to establish its list of offenses and procedures for suspensions and expulsions. The language that follows closely mirrors the language of Education Code Section 48900 *et seq.* MWA is committed to annual review of policies and procedures surrounding suspensions and expulsions and, as necessary, modification of the lists of offenses for which students are subject to suspension or expulsion.

If a policy is violated, it may be necessary to suspend or expel a student from regular classroom instruction. This policy shall serve as MWA's policy and procedures for student suspension and expulsion and it may be amended from time to time without the need to amend the charter so long as the amendments comport with legal requirements. MWA staff shall enforce disciplinary rules and procedures fairly and consistently among all students. This policy and its procedures will be printed and distributed as part of the student handbook and will clearly describe behavior management expectations. It will be reviewed and updated by the Board of Directors when they review and update other Board policies and procedures, or more frequently as needed.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a disciplinary measure against any student. Corporal punishment includes the willful infliction of or willfully causing the infliction of physical pain on a student. For purposes of the policy, corporal punishment does not include an employee's use of force that is reasonable and necessary to protect the employee, students, staff or other persons or to prevent damage to school property.



MWA administration shall ensure that students and their parents/guardians are notified in writing upon enrollment of all behavior management and involuntary removal policies and procedures. The notice shall state that these policies and procedures are available on request at the Front Offices.

Suspended or expelled students shall be excluded from all school and school-related activities unless otherwise agreed during the period of suspension or expulsion.

A student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom MWA has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 or who is qualified for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ("Section 504") is subject to the same grounds for suspension and expulsion and is accorded the same due process procedures applicable to general education students except when federal and state law mandates additional or different procedures. MWA will follow all applicable federal and state laws including but not limited to the California Education Code, when imposing any form of behavior management on a student identified as an individual with disabilities or for whom MWA has a basis of knowledge of a suspected disability or who is otherwise qualified for such services or protections in according due process to such students.

No student shall be involuntarily removed by MWA for any reason unless the parent or guardian of the student has been provided written notice of intent to remove the student no less than five schooldays before the effective date of the action. The written notice shall be in the native language of the student or the student's parent or guardian or, if the student is a foster child or youth or a homeless child or youth, the student's educational rights holder, and shall inform the student of basis for which the student is being involuntarily removed and the student's the right to request a hearing to challenge the involuntary removal. If a parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, MWA shall utilize the same hearing the procedures specified below for expulsions, before the effective date of the action to involuntarily remove the student. If the student's parent, guardian, or educational rights holder requests a hearing, the student shall remain enrolled and shall not be removed until MWA issues a final decision. As used herein, "involuntarily removed" includes disenrolled, dismissed, transferred, or terminated, but does not include removals for misconduct which may be grounds for suspension or expulsion as enumerated below.

## Grounds for Suspension and Expulsion of Students

A student may be suspended or expelled for prohibited misconduct if the act is related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any time including but not limited to: a) while on school grounds; b) while going to or coming from school; c) during the lunch period, whether on or off the school campus; d) during, going to, or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

### **Enumerated Offenses**

#### **Discretionary Suspension and Expellable Offenses**

Students may be suspended or recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

- Caused, attempted to cause, or threatened to cause physical injury to another person.
- Willfully used force or violence upon the person of another, except self-defense.
- Unlawfully possessed, used, or otherwise furnished, or was under the influence of any controlled substance, as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 1105311058, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind.

- Unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any controlled substance as defined in Health and Safety Code Sections 11053-11058, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant of any kind, and then sold, delivered or otherwise furnished to any person another liquid substance or material and represented same as controlled substance, alcoholic beverage or intoxicant.
- Committed or attempted to commit robbery or extortion.
- Caused or attempted to cause damage to school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- Stole or attempted to steal school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- Possessed or used tobacco or products containing tobacco or nicotine products, including but not limited to cigars, cigarettes, miniature cigars, clove cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chew packets and betel. This section does not prohibit the use of their own prescription products by a student.
- Committed an obscene act or engaged in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
- Unlawfully possessed or unlawfully offered, arranged, or negotiated to sell any drug paraphernalia, as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 11014.5.
- Knowingly received stolen school property or private property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases.
- Possessed an imitation firearm, i.e.: a replica of a firearm that is so substantially similar in physical properties to an existing firearm as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that the replica is a firearm. .
- Harassed, threatened, or intimidated a student who is a complaining witness or witness in a school disciplinary proceeding for the purpose of preventing that student from being a witness and/or retaliating against that student for being a witness.
- Unlawfully offered, arranged to sell, negotiated to sell, or sold the prescription drug Soma.
- Engaged in, or attempted to engage in hazing. For the purposes of this subdivision, "hazing" means a method of initiation or preinitiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by an educational institution, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. For purposes of this section, "hazing" does not include athletic events or school-sanctioned events.
- Made terroristic threats against school officials and/or school property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases. For purposes of this section, "terroristic threat" shall include any statement, whether written or oral, by a person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death, great bodily injury to another person, or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), with the specific intent that the statement is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for their own safety or for their immediate family's safety, or for the protection of school property, which includes but is not limited to, electronic files and databases, or the personal property of the person threatened or their immediate family.
- Committed sexual harassment, as defined in Education Code Section 212.5. For the purposes of this section, the conduct described in Section 212.5 must be considered by a reasonable person of the same gender as the victim to be sufficiently severe or pervasive to have a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance or to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- Caused, attempted to cause, threatened to cause or participated in an act of hate violence, as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 233 of the Education Code. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.

- Intentionally harassed, threatened or intimidated school personnel or volunteers and/or a student or group of students to the extent of having the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder and invading the rights of either school personnel or volunteers and/or student(s) by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. This section shall apply to students in any of grades 4 to 12, inclusive.
- Engaged in an act of bullying, including, but not limited to, bullying committed by means of an electronic act:
  - 1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a student or group of students which would be deemed hate violence or harassment, threats, or intimidation, which are directed toward one or more students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:
    - i. Placing a reasonable student (defined as a student, including, but is not limited to, a student with exceptional needs, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of their age, or for a person of their age with exceptional needs) or students in fear of harm to that student's or those students' person or property.
    - ii. Causing a reasonable student to experience a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
    - iii. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with their academic performance.
    - iv. Causing a reasonable student to experience substantial interference with their ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the Charter School.
  - 2) "Electronic Act" means the creation or transmission originated on or off the school site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager, of a communication, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
    - i. A message, text, sound, video, or image.
    - ii. A post on a social network Internet Web site including, but not limited to:
      - (a) Posting to or creating a burn page. A "burn page" means an Internet Web site created for the purpose of having one or more of the effects as listed in subparagraph (1) above.
      - (b) Creating a credible impersonation of another actual student for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "Credible impersonation" means to knowingly and without consent impersonate a student for the purpose of bullying the student and such that another student would reasonably believe, or has reasonably believed, that the student was or is the student who was impersonated.
      - (c) Creating a false profile for the purpose of having one or more of the effects listed in subparagraph (1) above. "False profile" means a profile of a fictitious student or a profile using the likeness or attributes of an actual student other than the student who created the false profile. iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.
        - (a) For purposes of this clause, "cyber sexual bullying" means the dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a student to another student or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the effects described in subparagraphs (i) to (iv), inclusive, of paragraph (1). A photograph or other visual recording, as described above, shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or

sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording, or other electronic act.

iii. An act of cyber sexual bullying.

(b) For purposes of this clause, “cyber sexual bullying” does not include a depiction, portrayal, or image that has any serious literary, artistic, educational, political, or scientific value or that involves athletic events or school-sanctioned activities.

3) Notwithstanding subparagraphs (1) above, an electronic act shall not constitute pervasive conduct solely on the basis that it has been transmitted on the Internet or is currently posted on the Internet.

- A student who aids or abets, as defined in Section 31 of the Penal Code, the infliction or attempted infliction of physical injury to another person may be subject to suspension, but not expulsion, except that a student who has been adjudged by a juvenile court to have committed, as an aider and abettor, a crime of physical violence in which the victim suffered great bodily injury or serious bodily injury shall be subject to behavior management pursuant to subdivision (1)(a)-(b).
- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any knife unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Division Director or designee’s concurrence.

### **Non-Discretionary Suspension and Expellable Offenses**

Students must be suspended and recommended for expulsion for any of the following acts when it is determined the student:

- Possessed, sold, or otherwise furnished any firearm, explosive, or other dangerous object unless, in the case of possession of any object of this type, the student had obtained written permission to possess the item from a certificated school employee, with the Division Director or designee’s concurrence.
- Brandished a knife at another person.
- Unlawfully sold a controlled substance listed in Health and Safety Code Section 11053, et seq.
- Committed or attempted to commit a sexual assault or committed a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900(n).

### **Firearms and Destructive Devices**

If it is determined by the Administrative Panel and/or Board of Directors that a student has brought a firearm or destructive device, as defined in Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, on to campus or to have possessed a firearm or dangerous device on campus, the student shall be expelled for one year, pursuant to the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994. In such instances, the student shall be provided due process rights of notice and a hearing as required in this policy.

The term “firearm” means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.

The term “destructive device” means any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, including but not limited to: bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses.

# Suspension Procedure

Suspensions shall be initiated according to the following procedures:

## **Conference**

Suspension shall be preceded, if possible, by a conference conducted by the Division Director or the Division Director's designee with the student and their parent/guardian and, whenever practical, the teacher, supervisor or Charter School employee who referred the student to the Division Director or designee.

The conference may be omitted if the Division Director or designee determines that an emergency situation exists. An "emergency situation" involves a clear and present danger to the lives, safety or health of students or Charter School personnel. If a student is suspended without this conference, both the parent/guardian and student shall be notified of the student's right to return to school for the purpose of a conference.

At the conference, the student shall be informed of the reason for the disciplinary action and the evidence against him or her and shall be given the opportunity to present their version and evidence in their defense, in accordance with Education Code Section 47605(b)(5)(J)(i). This conference shall be held within two (2) school days, unless the student waives this right or is physically unable to attend for any reason including, but not limited to, incarceration or hospitalization. No penalties may be imposed on a student for failure of the student's parent or guardian to attend a conference with Charter School officials. Reinstatement of the suspended student shall not be contingent upon attendance by the student's parent or guardian at the conference.

## **Notice to Parents/Guardians**

At the time of the suspension, an administrator or designee shall make a reasonable effort to contact the parent/guardian by telephone or in person. Whenever a student is suspended, the parent/guardian shall be notified in writing of the suspension and the date of return following suspension. This notice shall state the specific offense committed by the student. In addition, the notice may also state the date and time when the student may return to school. If Charter School officials wish to ask the parent/guardian to confer regarding matters pertinent to the suspension, the notice may request that the parent/guardian respond to such requests without delay.

## **Suspension Time Limits/Recommendation for Expulsion**

Suspensions, when not including a recommendation for expulsion, shall not exceed five consecutive school days per suspension. Upon a recommendation of expulsion by the Senior School Director or designee, the student and the student's parent/guardian or representative will be invited to a conference to determine if the suspension for the student should be extended pending an expulsion hearing. In such instances when the school has determined a suspension period shall be extended, such extension shall be made only after a conference is held with the student or the student's parents/guardians, unless the student and the student's parents/guardians fail to attend the conference. This determination will be made by the Senior School Director or designee upon either of the following: 1) the student's presence will be disruptive to the education process; or 2) the student poses a threat or danger to others. Upon either determination, the student's suspension will be extended pending the results of an expulsion hearing.

## Homework Assignment During Suspension

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(a), upon the request of a parent, a legal guardian or other person holding the right to make education decisions for the student, or the affected student, a teacher shall provide to a student in any of grades 1 to 12, inclusive, who has been suspended from school for two or more schooldays, the homework that the student would otherwise have been assigned.

In accordance with Education Code Section 47606.2(b), if a homework assignment that is requested pursuant to Section 47606.2(a) and turned into the teacher by the student either upon the student's return to school from suspension or within the timeframe originally prescribed by the teacher, whichever is later, is not graded before the end of the academic term, that assignment shall not be included in the calculation of the student's overall grade in the class.

## Authority to Expel

As required by Education Code Section 47605(c)(5)(J)(ii), students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing adjudicated by a neutral officer to determine whether the student should be expelled. The procedures herein provide for such a hearing and the notice of said hearing, as required by law.

A student may be expelled either by the neutral and impartial MWA Board of Directors following a hearing before it or by the MWA Board of Directors upon the recommendation of a neutral and impartial administrative panel, to be assigned by the Board of Directors as needed. The administrative panel shall consist of at least three members who are certificated and neither a teacher of the student nor a member of the Board of Directors. Each entity shall be presided over by a designated neutral hearing chairperson. The administrative panel may recommend expulsion of any student found to have committed an expellable offense, and the Board of Directors shall make the final determination.

## Expulsion Procedures

Students recommended for expulsion are entitled to a hearing to determine whether the student should be expelled. Unless postponed for good cause, the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) school days after the Senior School Director or designee determines that the student has committed an expellable offense.

In the event an administrative panel hears the case, it will make a recommendation to the Board for a final decision whether to expel. The hearing shall be held in closed session (complying with all student confidentiality rules under FERPA) unless the student makes a written request for a public hearing in open session three days prior to the date of the scheduled hearing.

## Steps to Expulsion

The following steps will occur when a student commits an offense that may be considered expellable:

- A timely investigation of what happened;
- Suspension of the student while the investigation is underway, which may be extended as described above;
- The parents/guardians and student are notified of the findings of the investigation including the school's determination of whether the offense is expellable;
- An expulsion hearing is scheduled and held within thirty (30) school days after the Senior School Director or designee determines that the student has committed an expellable offense, unless postponed for good cause.
- Written notice of the hearing will be forwarded to the student and the student's parents/guardians no later than ten (10) calendar days before the hearing;
- The Board of Directors or an administrative panel conduct the hearing;
- If the administrative panel conducts the hearing, the recommendation shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board of Directors, which will make a final determination regarding the expulsion during closed session at a public board meeting;
- The final decision by the Board of Directors shall be made within ten (10) school days following the conclusion of the hearing (the decision of the Board of Directors is final);
- The student or the student's [C1] parents/guardians will be forwarded a written notice of the expulsion including a copy of the Board of Directors' adopted written findings of fact; and
  - Notice of this specific offense committed by the student; and
  - Notice of the student's or parents/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with MWA;
- The Board of Directors' decision to expel is final and is documented in the student's file and forwarded to the school's authorizer and the student's last known district of residence.

Written notice of the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and the student's parent/guardian at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. Upon mailing the notice, it shall be deemed served upon the student. The notice shall include:

- The date and place of the expulsion hearing;
- A statement of the specific facts, charges and offenses upon which the proposed expulsion is based;
- A copy of MWA's disciplinary rules which relate to the alleged violation;
- Notification of the student's or parents/guardians obligation to provide information about the student's status at MWA to any other school district or school to which the student seeks enrollment;
- The opportunity for the student and or the student's parent or guardian to appear in person or to employ and be represented by counsel for a non-attorney advisor;
- The right to inspect and obtain copies of all documents to be used at the hearing;
- The opportunity to confront and question all witnesses who testify at the hearing;
- The opportunity to question all evidence presented and to present oral and documentary evidence on the student's behalf including witnesses.

## Special Procedures for Expulsion Hearings Involving Sexual Assault or Battery Offenses

MWA may, upon a finding of good cause, determine that the disclosure of either the identity of the witness or the testimony of that witness at the hearing, or both, would subject the witness to an unreasonable risk of psychological or physical harm. Upon this determination, the testimony of the witness may be presented at the hearing in the form of sworn declarations that shall be examined only by the school or the hearing officer. Copies of these sworn declarations, edited to delete the name and identity of the witness, shall be made available to the student.

- The complaining witness in any sexual assault or battery case must be provided with a copy of the applicable disciplinary rules and advised of their right to (a) receive five days notice of their scheduled testimony, (b) have up to two (2) adult support persons of their choosing present in the hearing at the time he/she testifies, which may include a parent, guardian, or legal counsel, and (c) elect to have the hearing closed while testifying.
- MWA must also provide the victim a room separate from the hearing room for the complaining witness' use prior to and during breaks in testimony.
- At the discretion of the entity conducting the expulsion hearing, the complaining witness shall be allowed periods of relief from examination and cross-examination during which he or she may leave the hearing room.
- The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also arrange the seating within the hearing room to facilitate a less intimidating environment for the complaining witness.
- The entity conducting the expulsion hearing may also limit time for taking the testimony of the complaining witness to the hours he/she is normally in school, if there is no good cause to take the testimony during other hours.
- Prior to a complaining witness testifying, the support persons must be admonished that the hearing is confidential. Nothing in the law precludes the entity presiding over the hearing from removing a support person whom the presiding person finds is disrupting the hearing. The entity conducting the hearing may permit any one of the support persons for the complaining witness to accompany him or her to the witness stand.
- If one or both of the support persons is also a witness, MWA must present evidence that the witness' presence is both desired by the witness and will be helpful to MWA. The person presiding over the hearing shall permit the witness to stay unless it is established that there is a substantial risk that the testimony of the complaining witness would be influenced by the support person, in which case the presiding official shall admonish the support person or persons not to prompt, sway, or influence the witness in any way. Nothing shall preclude the presiding officer from exercising their discretion to remove a person from the hearing whom he or she believes is prompting, swaying, or influencing the witness.
- The testimony of the support person shall be presented before the testimony of the complaining witness and the complaining witness shall be excluded from the courtroom during that testimony.
- Especially for charges involving sexual assault or battery, if the hearing is to be conducted in public at the request of the student being expelled, the complaining witness shall have the right to have their testimony heard in a closed session when testifying at a public meeting would threaten serious psychological harm to the complaining witness and there are no alternative procedures to avoid the threatened harm. The alternative procedures may include videotaped depositions or contemporaneous examination in another place communicated to the hearing room by means of closed-circuit television.
- Evidence of specific instances of a complaining witness' prior sexual conduct is presumed inadmissible and shall not be heard absent a determination by the entity conducting the hearing that extraordinary circumstances exist requiring the evidence be heard. Before such a determination regarding extraordinary circumstances can be made, the witness shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present opposition to the introduction of the evidence. In the hearing on the admissibility of the evidence, the complaining witness



shall be entitled to be represented by a parent, legal counsel, or other support person. Reputation or opinion evidence regarding the sexual behavior of the complaining witness is not admissible for any purpose.

## Record of Hearing

A record of the hearing shall be made and may be maintained by any means, including electronic recording, as long as a reasonably accurate and complete written transcription of the proceedings can be made.

## Presentation of Evidence

While technical rules of evidence do not apply to expulsion hearings, evidence may be admitted and used as proof only if it is the kind of evidence on which reasonable persons can rely in the conduct of serious affairs. A recommendation by the administrative panel to expel must be supported by substantial evidence that the student committed an expellable offense. Findings of fact shall be based solely on the evidence at the hearing. While hearsay evidence is admissible, no decision to expel shall be based solely on hearsay. Sworn declarations may be admitted as testimony from witnesses of whom the Board or administrative panel determines that disclosure of their identity or testimony at the hearing may subject them to an unreasonable risk of physical or psychological harm.

If, due to a written request by the expelled student, the hearing is held at a public meeting, and the charge is committing or attempting to commit a sexual assault or committing a sexual battery as defined in Education Code Section 48900, a complaining witness shall have the right to have their testimony heard in a session closed to the public.

The decision of the administrative panel shall be in the form of written findings of fact and a written recommendation to the Board of Directors, which will make a final determination regarding the expulsion. The final decision by the Board of Directors shall be made within 10 school days following the conclusion of the hearing. The decision of the Board of Directors is final.

If the Administrative Panel decides not to recommend expulsion, the student shall immediately be returned to their educational program.

## Written Notice to Expel

The Senior School Director or designee, following a decision of the Board of Directors to expel, shall send written notice of the decision to expel, including the Board of Directors' adopted findings of fact, to the student or parent/guardian. This notice shall also include the following: (a) notice of the specific offense committed by the student; and (b) notice of the student's or parent/guardian's obligation to inform any new district in which the student seeks to enroll of the student's status with MWA .

The Senior School Director or designee shall send a copy of the written notice of the decision to expel to the authorizer. This notice shall include the following: (a) the student's name; and (b) the specific expellable offense committed by the student.

## Disciplinary Records

MWA shall maintain records of all student suspensions and expulsions at the school. Such records shall be made available to the authorizer upon request.

## No Right to Appeal

The student shall have no right of appeal from expulsion from MWA as the Board of Directors' decision to expel shall be final.

## Expelled Students/Alternative Education

Parents/guardians of students who are expelled shall be responsible for seeking alternative education programs including, but not limited to, programs within the county or their school district of residence. MWA shall work cooperatively with parents/guardians as requested by parents/guardians or by the school district of residence to assist with locating alternative placements during expulsion.

## Rehabilitation Plans

Students who are expelled from MWA shall be given a rehabilitation plan upon expulsion as developed by the Board of Directors at the time of the expulsion order, which may include, but is not limited to, periodic review as well as assessment at the time of review for readmission. The rehabilitation plan should include a date not later than one year from the date of expulsion when the student may reapply to MWA for readmission.

## Readmission

The decision to readmit a student or to admit a previously expelled student from another school district or charter school shall be in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors following a meeting with the Senior School Director or designee and the student and parent/guardian or representative to determine whether the student has successfully completed the rehabilitation plan and to determine whether the student poses a threat to others or will be disruptive to the school environment. The Senior School Director or designee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors following the meeting regarding their determination. The Board shall then make a final decision regarding readmission during a closed session of a public meeting, reporting out any action taken during closed session consistent with the requirements of the Brown Act. The student's readmission is also contingent upon MWA's capacity at the time the student seeks readmission.

## Notice to Teachers

MWA shall notify teachers of each student who has engaged in or is reasonably suspected to have engaged in any of the acts listed in Education Code Section 49079 and the corresponding enumerated offenses set forth above.

## Special Procedures for the Consideration of Suspension and Expulsion of Students with Disabilities

### **1. Notification of SELPA**

MWA shall immediately notify the SELPA and coordinate the procedures in this policy with the SELPA of the behavior management of any student with a disability or student who MWA or the SELPA would be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability. MWA will also notify the SELPA of which it is a part of any suspension or expulsion.

### **2. Services During Suspension**

Students suspended for more than 10 school days in a school year shall continue to receive services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting (which could constitute a change of placement and the student's IEP would reflect this change), and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP/504 Plan; and receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur. These services may be provided in an interim alternative educational setting.

### **3. Procedural Safeguards/Manifestation Determination**

Within 10 school days of a recommendation for expulsion or any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, MWA the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP/504 Plan, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine:

- a. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
- b. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the local educational agency's failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan.

If MWA, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that either of the above is applicable for the child, the conduct shall be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability.

If MWA, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team make the determination that the conduct was a manifestation of the child's disability, the IEP/504 Team shall:

- a. Conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan for such child, provided that MWA had not conducted such assessment prior to such determination before the behavior that resulted in a change in placement;
- b. If a behavioral intervention plan has been developed, review the behavioral intervention plan if the child already has such a behavioral intervention plan, and modify it, as necessary, to address the behavior; and
- c. Return the child to the placement from which the child was removed, unless the parent and MWA agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

If MWA, the parent/guardian, and relevant members of the IEP/504 Team determine that the behavior was not a manifestation of the student's disability and that the conduct in question was not a direct result of the failure to implement the IEP/504 Plan, then MWA may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities.

#### **4. *Due Process Appeals***

The parent/guardian of a child with a disability who disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or MWA believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, may request an expedited administrative hearing through the Special Education Unit of the Office of Administrative Hearings or by utilizing the dispute provisions of the 504 Policy and Procedures.

When an appeal relating to the placement of the student or the manifestation determination has been requested by either the parent/guardian or the school, the student shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the hearing officer in accordance with state and federal law, including 20 USC Section 1415(k), until the expiration of the 45 -day time period provided for in an interim alternative educational setting, unless the parent/guardian and the school agree otherwise.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(3), if a parent/guardian disagrees with any decision regarding placement, or the manifestation determination, or if MWA believes that maintaining the current placement of the child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others, the parent/guardian or school may request a hearing.

In such an appeal, a hearing officer may: (1) return a child with a disability to the placement from which the child was removed; or (2) order a change in placement of a child with a disability to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days if the hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of such child is substantially likely to result in injury to the child or to others.

#### **5. *Special Circumstances***

MWA personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

The Senior School Director or designee may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability in cases where a student:

- a. Carries or possesses a weapon, as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 930, to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function;
- b. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or
- c. Has inflicted serious bodily injury, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1415(k)(7)(D), upon a person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

**6. *Interim Alternative Educational Setting***

The student's interim alternative educational setting shall be determined by the student's IEP/504 Team.

**7. *Procedures for Students Not Yet Eligible for Special Education Services***

A student who has not been identified as an individual with disabilities pursuant to IDEA and who has violated MWA's disciplinary procedures may assert the procedural safeguards granted under this administrative regulation only if MWA had knowledge that the student was disabled before the behavior occurred.

WA shall be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The parent/guardian has expressed concern in writing, or orally if the parent/guardian does not know how to write or has a disability that prevents a written statement, to school supervisory or administrative personnel, or to one of the child's teachers, that the student is in need of special education or related services.
- b. The parent/guardian has requested an evaluation of the child.
- c. The child's teacher, or other school personnel, has expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child, directly to the director of special education or to other supervisory personnel.

If MWA knew or should have known the student had a disability under any of the three circumstances described above, the student may assert any of the protections available to IDEA eligible children with disabilities, including the right to stay-put.

If MWA had no basis for knowledge of the student's disability, it shall proceed with the proposed behavior management. MWA shall conduct an expedited evaluation if requested by the parents; however the student shall remain in the education placement determined by MWA pending the results of the evaluation.

MWA shall not be deemed to have knowledge that the student had a disability if the parent/guardian has not allowed an evaluation, refused services, or if the student has been evaluated and determined to not be eligible.

# Appendix M: Homeless Youth

The term “homeless children and youth” means individuals who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence due to economic hardship. It includes children and youths who (42 U.S.C. 11434a):

- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as regular sleeping accommodations for human beings;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and/or
- Migratory children and unaccompanied youth (youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian) may be considered homeless if they meet the above definition of “homeless.”

Homeless status is determined in cooperation with the parent/guardian. In the case of unaccompanied youth, status is determined by the MWA Liaison.

The Chief Executive Officer or designee designates the following staff person as the MWA Liaison for homeless students ((42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(1)(J)(ii)):

Division Social Workers  
4123 Lakeside Drive  
Richmond, CA 94806  
Ph. (510) 262-1511

The MWA Liaison shall ensure that (42 U.S.C. 11432(g)(6)):

- Homeless students are identified by school personnel and through outreach and coordination activities with other entities and agencies.
- Homeless students enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed at MWA.
- Homeless students and families receive educational services for which they are eligible, including services through Head Start programs (including Early Head Start programs) under the Head Start Act, early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any other preschool programs administered by MWA, if any, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services and substance abuse services, housing services, and other appropriate services.
- Parents/guardians are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.
- Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated at places frequented by parents or guardians of such youths, and unaccompanied youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, and in a manner and form understandable to the parents and guardians of homeless youth and unaccompanied youth.

- Enrollment/admissions disputes are mediated in accordance with law, MWA charter, and board policy.
- Parents/guardians and any unaccompanied youth are fully informed of all transportation services, as applicable.
- MWA personnel providing services receive professional development and other support.
- The MWA Liaison collaborates with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.
  - Unaccompanied youth are enrolled in school; have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as the State establishes for other children and youth; and are informed of their status as independent students under section 480 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that the youths may obtain assistance from The MWA Liaison to receive verification of such status for the purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Act.

The California Department of Education publishes a list of the contact information for the Homeless Education Liaisons in the state, which is available at: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/>

High School Graduation Requirements: Homeless students who transfer to MWA any time after the completion of their second year of high school shall be exempt from any of MWA's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless MWA makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete MWA's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a homeless student is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the student's school enrollment may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a student who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into MWA, MWA shall notify the student, the student's educational rights holder, and the MWA Liaison of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for an exemption.

MWA shall notify students who are exempted from MWA's additional graduation requirements and the student's educational rights holder of how any of the requirements that are waived will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

MWA shall not require any student who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at MWA to accept the exemption from MWA's additional graduation requirements or deny the student enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible. MWA shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible student's request for the exemption at any time if the student qualifies, regardless of whether the student previously declined the exemption. An eligible student's exemption from MWA's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the student is enrolled in MWA or if the student transfers to another school even after the student no longer meets the definition of a homeless child.

MWA shall not require or request that a student transfer schools in order to qualify the student for the exemption. Nor shall a student, a student's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a student's social worker or probation officer request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from MWA's additional graduation requirements.

If a student who is exempted from MWA's additional graduation requirements completes the California minimum coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the student's fourth year of high school and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at MWA, MWA shall not require or request that the student graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If MWA determines the student is reasonably able to complete MWA's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fifth year of high school, MWA shall do the following:

1. Inform the student of the student's option to remain at MWA for a fifth year to complete MWA's graduation requirements.
2. Inform the student, and the educational rights holder for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete MWA's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
3. Provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. Permit the student to stay at MWA for a fifth year to complete MWA's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the educational rights holder for the student.

Acceptance of Course Work: MWA will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a homeless student.

MWA will provide homeless students credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the student did not complete the entire course, MWA shall not require the student to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless MWA, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the homeless student shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. These students shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

For any homeless student who enrolls at MWA, a copy of MWA's complete policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office .



# Appendix N: Foster Youth

Definitions: For the purposes of this annual notice the terms are defined as follows:

1. "Foster youth" refers to any child who has been removed from their home pursuant Welfare and Institutions Code section 309 and/or is the subject of a petition filed under Welfare and Institutions Code section 300 or 602. This includes children who are the subject of cases in dependency court and juvenile justice court.
2. "Former juvenile court school students" refers to a student who, upon completion of the student's second year of high school, transfers from a juvenile court school to MWA.
3. "Child of a military family" refers to a student who resides in the household of an active duty military member.
4. "Currently Migratory Child" refers to a child who, within the last 12-months, has moved with a parent, guardian, or other person having custody to MWA from another Local Educational Agency ("LEA"), either within California or from another state, in order that the child or a member of the child's immediate family might secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity, and whose parents or guardians have been informed of the child's eligibility for migrant education services. "Currently Migratory Child" includes a child who, without the parent/guardian, has continued to migrate annually to secure temporary or seasonal employment in an agricultural or fishing activity.
5. "Student participating in a newcomer program" means a student who is participating in a program designed to meet the academic and transitional needs of newly arrived immigrant students that has as a primary objective the development of English language proficiency.

Within this notice, foster youth, former juvenile court school students, a child of a military family, a currently migratory child, and a student participating in the newcomer program will be collectively referred to as "Foster and Mobile Youth." Within this notice, a parent, guardian, or other person holding the educational rights for a Foster and Mobile Youth will be referred to as a "parent."

Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison: The Chief Executive Officer or designee designates the following staff person as the Liaison for Foster and Mobile Youth:

Division Social Workers  
4123 Lakeside Drive  
Richmond, CA 94806  
Ph. (510) 262-1511

The Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison's responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

1. Ensuring and facilitating the proper educational placement, enrollment in school, and checkout from school of foster children.
2. Assisting foster children when transferring from one school to another school in ensuring proper transfer of credits, records and grades.

School Stability: MWA will work with foster youth and their parent to ensure that each student is placed in the least restrictive educational programs, and has access to the academic resources, services, and extracurricular and enrichment activities that are available to all students, including, but not necessarily limited to, interscholastic sports. All decisions regarding a foster youth's education and placement will be based on the best interest of the child and shall consider, among other factors, educational stability and the opportunity to be educated in the least restrictive educational setting necessary to achieve academic progress.

Foster youth, currently migratory children and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin if it is their best interest. MWA will immediately enroll a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking reenrollment in MWA as the student's school of origin (subject to MWA's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in MWA's charter and Board policy). If a dispute arises regarding a foster

youth's request to remain in MWA as the school of origin, the foster youth has the right to remain in MWA pending the resolution of the dispute. MWA will also immediately enroll any foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family seeking to transfer to the MWA (subject to MWA's capacity and pursuant to the procedures stated in MWA's charter and Board policy) regardless of the student's ability to meet normal enrollment documentation or uniform requirements (e.g. producing medical records or academic records from a previous school).

Foster youth, currently migratory children, and children of military families have the right to remain in their school of origin following the termination of the child's status as a foster youth, currently migratory child or child of a military family, as follows:

1. For students in Kindergarten through eighth grade, inclusive, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through the duration of the academic year in which the student's status changed.
2. For students enrolled in high school, the student will be allowed to continue in the school of origin through graduation.

Graduation Requirements: Foster and Mobile Youth who transfer to MWA any time after the completion of their second year of high school, and students participating in a newcomer program who are in their third or fourth year of high school, shall be exempt from any of MWA's graduation requirements that are in excess of the California minimum graduation requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 ("additional graduation requirements") unless MWA makes a finding that the student is reasonably able to complete MWA's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

To determine whether a Foster and Mobile Youth is in their third or fourth year of high school, either the number of credits the student has earned to the date of transfer or the length of the student's school enrollment may be used, whichever will qualify the student for the exemption. In the case of a student participating in a newcomer program, enrollment in grade 11 or 12 may be used to determine whether the student is in their third or fourth year of high school.

Within thirty (30) calendar days of the date that a student who may qualify for exemption under the above requirements transfers into MWA, MWA shall notify the student, the parent, and where applicable, the student's social worker or probation officer, of the availability of the exemption and whether the student qualifies for an exemption.

MWA shall notify students who are exempted from MWA's additional graduation requirements and the student's parent how any of the requirements that are waived will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and provide information about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.

MWA shall not require any student who would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at MWA to accept the exemption from MWA's additional graduation requirements or deny the student enrollment in, or the ability to complete, courses for which the student is otherwise eligible. MWA shall not revoke an exemption and shall grant an eligible student's request for the exemption at any time if the student qualifies, regardless of whether the student previously declined the exemption. An eligible student's exemption from MWA's additional graduation requirements will continue to apply while the student is enrolled in MWA or if the student transfers to another school even after the court's jurisdiction terminates or the student no longer meets the definition of a child of military family, a currently migratory child or a student participating in a newcomer program.

MWA shall not require or request that a student transfer schools in order to qualify the student for the exemption. Nor shall a student, a student's parent/guardian or educational rights holder, or a student's social worker or probation officer request a transfer solely to qualify for an exemption from MWA's additional graduation requirements.

If a student who is exempted from MWA's additional graduation requirements completes the California minimum coursework requirements specified in Education Code section 51225.3 before the end of the student's fourth year of high school and would otherwise be entitled to remain in attendance at MWA, MWA shall not require or request that the student graduate before the end of the student's fourth year of high school.

If MWA determines the student is reasonably able to complete MWA's graduation requirements by the end of the student's fifth year of high school, MWA shall do the following:

1. Inform the student of the student's option to remain at MWA for a fifth year to complete MWA's graduation requirements.
2. Inform the student, and the educational rights holder for the student, about how remaining in school for a fifth year to complete MWA's graduation requirements will affect the student's ability to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution.
3. Provide information to the student about transfer opportunities available through the California Community Colleges.
4. Permit the student to stay at MWA for a fifth year to complete MWA's graduation requirements upon agreement with the student, if the student is 18 years of age or older, or, if the student is under 18 years of age, upon agreement with the educational rights holder for the student.

**Acceptance of Course Work:** MWA will accept any coursework satisfactorily completed at any public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency by a Foster and Mobile Youth.

MWA will provide Foster and Mobile Youth credit for the partial completion of courses taken while attending a public school, a juvenile court school, a school in a country other than the United States, and/or a nonpublic, nonsectarian school or agency. If the student did not complete the entire course, MWA shall not require the student to retake the portion of the course the student completed unless MWA, in consultation with the holder of educational rights for the student, finds that the student is reasonably able to complete the requirements in time to graduate from high school. When partial credit is awarded in a particular course, the Foster and Mobile Youth shall be enrolled in the same or equivalent course, if applicable, so that the student may continue and complete the entire course. These students shall not be prevented from taking or retaking a course to meet California State University or the University of California admission eligibility requirements.

**Student Records:** When MWA receives a transfer request and/or student records request for the educational information and records of a foster youth from a new local educational agency ("LEA"), MWA shall provide these student records within two (2) business days. MWA shall compile the complete educational record of the student, including but not limited to a determination of seat time, full or partial credits earned, current classes and grades, immunization and other records, and, if applicable, a copy of the student's special education records including assessments, IEPs, and/or 504 plans. All requests for student records will be shared with the Foster and Mobile Youth Liaison, who shall be aware of the specific educational record keeping needs of Foster and Mobile Youth.

MWA shall not lower a foster youth's grades as a result of the student's absence due to a verified court appearance, related court ordered activity, or a change the placement of the student made by a county or placing agency. If a foster youth is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of the student made by a county or placing agency, the grades and credits of the student will be calculated as of the date the student left MWA.

In accordance with MWA's Directory Information, FERPA, and Student Records Policy, under limited circumstances, MWA may disclose student records or personally identifiable information contained in those records to certain requesting parties including but not limited to a foster family agency and state and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, without parental consent.

**Discipline Determinations:** If MWA intends to extend the suspension of any foster/ youth pending a recommendation for expulsion, MWA will invite the student's attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the meeting at which the extension of the suspension will be discussed.

If MWA intends to suspend for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or expel a student with a disability who is also a foster youth due to an act for which the recommendation for expulsion is discretionary, MWA will invite the student's attorney and an appropriate representative from the relevant county agency to participate in the Manifestation Determination Review meeting.

Complaints of Noncompliance: A complaint of noncompliance with any of the requirements outlined above may be filed through MWA's Uniform Complaint Procedures . A copy of the Uniform Complaint Policy and Procedures is available upon request at the main office.

Availability of Complete Policy: For any Foster and Mobile Youth who enrolls at MWA, a copy of MWA's complete foster youth policy shall be provided at the time of enrollment. A copy of the complete Policy is available upon request at the main office .

**For the most up-to-date versions of our policies please visit:**

**<https://bit.ly/mwapublicnotices>**