

# Scuola Vita Nuova

# 2022-2023 Revised Student Handbook

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#### **OVERVIEW**

#### Purpose of Student Handbook

The school's administration and staff believe that a strong partnership between school staff, students, and parents is essential to providing the best possible education for their student(s). In order to strengthen this partnership all stakeholders must understand the general information and guidelines that will work to provide high quality learning experiences and a positive instructional environment.

#### **Impact of COVID-19**

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the functioning of our school, community, state, and even country. This Student Handbook is developed to address the procedures and expectations for students when school is in person for all students. In the event changes are required due to COVID-19, additional information will be provided in a separate document.

#### Staff Directory

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2022-2023 School Year

SPED/Speech	Barb Bodenhamer	bbodenhamer@svncharter.org
Special Education Teacher	Joanna Cuda	jcuda@svncharter.org
Special Education Teacher	Rachel Hockett	rhockett@svncharter.org
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Instructional Coach	Kristi Mansfield	kmansfield@svncharter.org
Dean of Student Culture	Jeremy Mansfield	jmansfield@svncharter.org
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Support Teacher	Kathy Campbell	kcampbell@svncharter.org
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Paraprofessional	Brioenne Burns	bburns@svncharter.org
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Health Aide	Elena Quick	equick@svncharter.org
Secretary	Natalia Du	ndu@svncharter.org
Director of Curriculum & Professional Development	Allyson Thurston	athurston@svncharter.org
Director of Student & Family Support Services	Jessica DiGiovanni	jdigiovanni@svncharter.org
Director of Finance & Operations	Mary Pittala	mpittala@svncharter.org
Superintendent	Nicole Goodman	ngoodman@svncharter.org

#### <u>School – Home Communication</u>

The school administrators and staff at SVN believe that effective communication between parents/guardians and school staff is essential to student and SVN's success. Students are navigating a variety of challenging social and academic pressures depending on their grade level:

- Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are learning how to learn in a school environment.
- Elementary students are preparing for the demands of Middle School.
- Middle School students are managing significant physical growth and change while they simultaneously prepare for high school.

To assist students with these demands and transitions it is important that students, families, and school staff communicate frequently regarding student performance and progress. Below you will find a list of communication strategies that will be used by the SVN staff to communicate with families. In addition, parents and guardians are free to contact the school and/or teacher(s) at any time with questions or concerns.

#### Home Visits

During Home Visits, SVN staff members visit a student and his or her family at the home or another location in the community. During these visits, families are able to share their hopes and goals for their child's education. Students do better when families and educators work together as equal partners. Home Visits will occur in August and throughout the school year.

#### Parent Teacher Conferences

Face to Face Parent Teacher Conferences are held twice a year in October and February. During these conferences, teachers will share information about student mastery toward grade level standards. Parents and teachers have the opportunity to discuss students' strengths and areas of improvement.

#### Phone Calls/Parent Meetings

Parents and teachers are encouraged to regularly communicate. This may occur through a phone call or parent meeting and can be initiated by the parent or teacher. Parent meetings must be scheduled to ensure all attendees are available.

#### SVN App

The SVN app is the most frequently used mode of communication at SVN. Important messages are sent through the app on a regular basis. In addition, parents and teachers can instant chat through the app. We strongly encourage all parents and families to download the SVN on their phones. You can download the app by searching for ReachWell in the app store. Once you have downloaded ReachWell, add Scuola Vita Nuova to the app.

#### Student Rights

SVN pledges to allow all students to:

- Feel safe in the school environment.
- Take full advantage of learning opportunities.
- Work in an environment free from disruptions and chaos.
- Express opinions, ideas, thoughts and concerns.
- Have a healthy environment that is smoke, alcohol and drug free.
- Use school resources and facilities for self-improvement.
- Expect courtesy, fairness and respect from all members of the learning community.
- Be informed of all expectations and responsibilities.
- Take part in a variety of school activities.

#### SVN Board Meetings

SVN Board Meetings are open to the public. The meeting dates and times are posted on SVN's website under the "About Us" tab, under "School Board." A public comment session will occur at the beginning of each meeting. All comments to be made must be made in general terms concerning general issues. No specific comments to or about any specific individual can be made to protect individual privacy. The Board will give preference to SVN parents/students. All comments shall be limited to 3 minutes per person.

#### Grievance Procedure

Students and parents have the right and responsibility to express school related concerns and grievances to the faculty and administration. Students and parents shall be assured the opportunity for an orderly presentation and timely review of concerns

Process. The faculty and administration shall make an honest and forthright effort to resolve grievances as quickly as possible at the most immediate level of authority.

The levels of authority shall be as follows:

- 1. Classroom related concerns Teachers; then Building Principal; then Superintendent; Board of Directors
- 2. School related concerns (including policies, procedures, administration, unresolved classroom related concerns, etc.) Building Principal, then Superintendent; then Board of Directors
- 3. Final Appeals Board of Directors- Decisions rendered by the Board of Directors shall be considered final.

Any teacher, staff member, or administrator shall have the authority to table any meeting considered to be unproductive, threatening, hostile, inappropriate, or lacking appropriate representation.

All Appeals to the Board of Directors must be submitted in writing and submitted to the Superintendent within ten (10) calendar days of the Superintendent's decision. The Superintendent will provide the appeal to the President of the Board of Directors. The President will schedule a hearing, if needed, within ten (10) business days after receiving the appeal. The Board of Directors has the right to make a decision based on the written appeal without a hearing. However, if verbal testimony or information is needed, all parties must be present in order for the Board of Directors to receive the same. The Board President may assign a committee of Directors to hear the grievance and make a decision on behalf of the Board.

#### Early Release Wednesdays

Every Wednesday is an early release day at 2:00 P.M. This allows our SVN Team to participate in professional development. Please see the school calendar on page for the dates for Early Release Wednesdays.



#### Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School 2022-2023 School Calendar

#### 2022-2023 Grading Periods

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
August 17, 2022-	October 17, 2022 –	January 4, 2023 –	March 27, 2023 –
October 14, 2022	December 16, 2022	March 17, 2023	May 24, 2023

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### Absences and Tardiness

When students miss class, they jeopardize their academic success. Attendance is monitored closely. There are no "excused absences at SVN and every absence, for whatever the reason, counts against SVN's attendance goals for students. *SVN expects students to be present 96% of the time*. Failure to maintain satisfactory attendance will result in a meeting with administration to discuss ongoing enrollment at SVN. Please note a student that has ten (10) consecutive days of absence will be automatically removed from the roll of SVN on the eleventh day and will have to apply for re-admittance for the following school year.

Absences should be for personal illness, severe illness in the family, a death in the family, or other serious situations. Part-day absences should be for unavoidable medical appointments or similar types of situations. Students may make up their work in these cases. Parents or guardians are asked not to permit their student to be absent for any other reason.

When a student misses school, it is his or her responsibility to obtain assignments and to complete all work missed during the absence. In general, previously assigned homework is due when the student returns. Students must complete missed work within the same number of days they were absent unless there are extenuating circumstances and other arrangements have been made in advance.

Please call the front office at (816) 231-5788 to report student absences, tardiness, or early pickups.

#### Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

Students are <u>not</u> permitted to have personal electronic devices in class. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, iPods, iPads, personal computers, smart watches, etc.

If there are circumstances that necessitate a student to have a cell phone after school, the student must take the phone directly to the office for safe keeping upon arrival at school. The student may then pick up the cell phone at dismissal. Parents will need to complete a waiver regarding said phone before the SVN will agree to allow the student to leave said phone in the office.

#### Media Release

School events, classroom activities, and special programs are sometimes photographed or videotaped by school representatives or media to post on websites or in newsletters or newspapers or to view on the television. SVN will follow parent wishes regarding photographing or videotaping their child(ren), as indicated on the enrollment form. Once consent or non-consent is given, SVN will operate under those wishes until notified otherwise by the parent. Notification must be given in writing.

#### Field Trips

#### Elementary & Intermediate

To be approved any field trip must be explicitly tied to school academic or character objectives. While on field trips it is essential that students be positive representatives of themselves, their families, and SVN. For this reason, students who are struggling to meet school expectations may not be eligible to participate in a field trip. Parents/Guardians will complete a field trip permission slip prior to each field trip. If parent volunteers are needed for a field trip, volunteers may be required to complete a background check.

#### Middle School

Due to the structure of the middle school (students rotating between teachers) field trips are less frequent during these years. To be approved, any field trip must be explicitly tied to middle school academic or character objectives. While on field trips it is essential that students be positive representatives of themselves, their families, and SVN. For this reason, students who are struggling to meet school expectations may not be eligible to participate in a field trip; this includes the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C. Final decisions about who will participate in field trips will be made at the discretion of administration.

#### Washington, D.C. Field Trip

Traditionally, SVN 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have been invited to participate in a class trip to Washington, D.C. We feel this is a great experience for our students and hope to have all 8<sup>th</sup> graders attend. However, to be eligible, students must meet the requirements determined by school administration. These requirements include, but are not limited to, meeting behavior expectations, completing assigned classwork and homework, and completing a required number of community service hours.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited daily in all classrooms. Students have the right to refrain from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and to stand quietly while the pledge is being recited by others.

#### **Birthday Celebrations**

In support of our students and families varying beliefs, as well as life threatening allergies, there will be no classroom *food* celebrations of student birthdays.

#### Dress Code

The dress code at SVN is designed to help students concentrate on their fundamental purpose during the day: to be active, engaged, and successful learners. Another purpose is to help students prepare for the professional environments they will encounter in high school, college, and career.

Student Uniform Expectations			
Shirts	Dress Pants		
Solid Color w/ Collar	• Khaki (Tan)		
Black	Navy Blue		
White	• Black		
• Red			
Navy Blue	Skirts (knee length)		
• SVN logo t-shirts (sold by SVN)	• Khaki (Tan)		
Must have SVN logo	Navy Blue		
	• Black		
Sweaters/ Sweatshirts	• Plaid		
Solid Color			
Black	Tights/ Leggings		

<ul><li>White</li><li>Red</li><li>Navy Blue</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Navy Blue</li> <li>Black</li> <li>White</li> <li>Red</li> </ul>

In addition to the above expectations:

- Students should not have any writing on their clothing, except for the SVN logo.
- Students may not wear flip flops, sandals, or heels.
- Students may not wear jeans.
- No excessive or inappropriate areas of skin or undergarments should be visible.
- No hats or hoods should be worn within the school building.
- It is recommended that students wear a belt to ensure pants fit properly.

Any interpretation and judgment of a student's compliance to the dress code lies with school personnel and is considered the final word on the matter. Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in disciplinary action.

#### Physical Education (P.E.)

Students should wear non-marking tennis shoes on days that they participate in Physical Education class. Heels, flip flops, boots, or other sandals are not acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact the PE Teacher.

#### Food/Gum

Our main goal during breakfast and lunch is ensuring students have a nutritional meal that will provide much needed energy throughout the school day. Students may choose to eat the school lunch or bring a lunch from home. If choosing to eat a school lunch, students may not bring additional snacks such as chips or candy to eat with their school lunch.

In general, no food or beverages are allowed outside of the cafeteria. However, students may bring a water bottle to school. Students are not allowed to chew gum anywhere on the SVN campus.

#### Lockers

Select grade levels will be assigned a locker, which may be shared with a classmate. The lockers are not equipped with locks so students should not store valuables inside their lockers. Student lockers may be searched at the discretion of administration (see Personal Searches).

#### **Transportation**

SVN's primary transportation method shall be parent or guardian drop off or pick up of students to and from school daily. To ensure the safety of all students, staff, and visitors, SVN has a procedure for drop off, dismissal, and pickup, drop off and pick up times, routes, supervision, and load/un-load processes. Parents, guardians, day-care buses/vans, and other authorized individuals dropping off or picking up students for the elementary and Donnelly Center shall enter through the north parking lot entrance and will follow the traffic cones and directions of the parking lot monitors exiting from the parking lot after student pick up **out of the south exit. Parents**,

guardians, day-care buses/vans, and other authorized individuals dropping off or picking up students for the Sherman Center shall enter through the north entrance of the Sherman Center driveway and will follow the traffic cones and directions of the parking lot monitors after student pick up exiting out of the south exit. These measures are in place to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors and increase the efficiency of arrival and dismissal processes.

Failure to comply with these procedures and the directions of the parking lot monitor(s) may result in that individual being banned from SVN's property and/or banned from dropping off or picking up student(s).

SVN will accept or release students from the car rider areas only to the care of a parent or guardian or other individual previously approved in writing by the parent or guardian.

#### Student Health

#### Medications

The school may provide assistance with medication (this includes prescription or over-thecounter medication) only if all of the following requirements are met:

- 1. Prescription drugs must be in the original container, bear the name of the student, the name of the physician and the name of the pharmacy filing the prescription. Over-the-counter drugs must be maintained in the original container.
- 2. The appropriate approval form for medication distribution must have been completed and signed by the parent or guardian for each medication.
- 3. The school nurse or other designated employee shall keep a written report of medication taken by the student.
- 4. SVN reserves the right to refuse to administer certain types of medication at the discretion of the school nurse when such administration could prove harmful to staff or student without proper training or direction of a physician.
- 5. Student Possession and Self-Administration of Medication
  - a. SVN shall grant any student authorization for the possession and selfadministration of medication to treat the student's chronic health condition, including but not limited to asthma or anaphylaxis if:
    - i. A licensed physician prescribed or ordered such medication for use by the student and instructed such student in the correct and responsible use of such medication;
    - The student has demonstrated to the student's licensed physician or the licensed physician's designee, and the school nurse, if available, the skill level necessary to use the medication and any device necessary to administer such medication prescribed or ordered;
    - iii. The student's physician has approved and signed a written treatment plan for managing the student's chronic health condition, including asthma or anaphylaxis episodes and for medication for use by the

student. Such plan shall include a statement that the student is capable of self-administering the medication under the treatment plan;

- iv. The student's parent or guardian has completed and submitted to the school any written documentation required by the school, including the treatment plan and the liability statement.
- v. The student's parent or guardian has signed a statement acknowledging that SVN and its employees or agents shall incur no liability as a result of any injury arising from the self-administration of medication by the student or the administration of such medication by school staff. Such statement shall not be construed to release the school district and its employees or agents from liability for negligence.
- vi. Students authorized to possess and self-administer medication may possess and self-administer such medication while in school, at a schoolsponsored activity, and in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activity
- vii. Such authorization shall only be effective for the school year in which it is granted. Such authorization shall be renewed by the student's parent or guardian each subsequent school year.
- viii. Any current duplicate prescription medical, if provided by a student's parent or guardian or by the school shall be kept at the school in a location at which the student or school staff has immediate access in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis or other emergency.
- ix. The written treatment plan, liability statement, and any other written documentation shall be kept on file at the school in a location easily accessible in the event of an emergency.

# 6. Diabetes Care

SVN may provide all students with diabetes in the school appropriate and needed diabetes care as specified in their diabetes medical management plan. In accordance with the request of the parent or guardian of a student with diabetes and the student's diabetes medical management plan, the school nurse may perform diabetes care functions including, but not limited to:

- a. Checking and recording blood glucose levels and ketone levels or assisting a student with such checking and recording;
- b. Responding to blood glucose levels that are outside of the student's target range;
- c. Administering glucagon and other emergency treatments as prescribed;
- d. Administering insulin or assisting a student in administering insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses;
- e. Providing oral diabetes medications; and
- f. Following instructions regarding meals, snacks, and physical activity.

The school nurse MAY be on site and available to provide care to each student with diabetes during regular school hours and during all school-sponsored activities, including school-sponsored before-school and after-school care programs, field trips, extended off-site excursions, extracurricular activities, and on buses when the bus driver has not completed the necessary training.

#### **Student Self-Care – Diabetes**

Upon written request of the parent or guardian and authorization by the student's diabetes medical management plan, a student with diabetes shall be permitted to perform blood glucose checks, administer insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses, treat hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia, and otherwise attend to the care and management of his or her diabetes in the classroom, in any area of the school or school grounds, and at any school-related activity, and to possess on his or her person at all times all necessary supplies and equipment to perform these monitoring and treatment functions. If the parent or student so requests, the student shall have access to a private area for performing diabetes care tasks.

#### Immunizations

All students attending SVN are required to be in compliance with state law mandating immunization against specific diseases . Failure to comply with immunization requirements will result in exclusion from school until proof of compliance is provided. All students' records/reports regarding their immunizations shall be maintained by SVN in accordance with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' guidelines.

Homeless students will be granted a temporary twenty-four (24) hour grace period within which to submit proof of compliance. If the homeless coordinator is unable to obtain prior immunization records within thirty (30) days of enrolling and the student is still eligible for services under the homeless education program; the student must begin the immunization series and demonstrate that satisfactory progress has been accomplished within (90) days. If the homeless student maintains that he/she is exempted from receiving immunizations, then after thirty (30) days the student must provide documentation in accordance with the exemption requirements provided for by state law.

A student whose family is transitioning from military service shall have thirty (30) days from the date of enrollment to obtain any required immunization(s).

#### **Health Records**

Except as otherwise required by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), records containing student health information will be stored separately from other student records in a locked file cabinet or in a secure computer file. Only the Superintendent or his/her designee(s) shall have access to the locked file cabinet or secure computer file.

#### The Leader in Me

The Leader in Me is a school-wide philosophy that encourages individual leadership and positive character at school, home, and the community through the 7 Habits principles. It is not a curriculum or an instructional method but is rather a mindset that encourages students and staff to see themselves as leaders. The Leader in Me encourages personal goal setting and achieving for students and adults. SVN students and staff practice the 7 Habits on a daily basis.

- Habit 1 Be Proactive
- Habit 2 Begin with the End in Mind
- Habit 3 Put First Things First

- Habit 4 Think Win-Win
- Habit 5 Seek First to Understand then to be Understood
- Habit 6 Synergize
- Habit 7 Sharpen the Saw

### ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The goal of Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School's staff is to provide students with the best possible learning environment to promote the highest academic achievement by students. Students are expected to push themselves academically in order to develop the positive learning habits and self-discipline necessary for life-long success.

#### <u>Classwork</u>

The purpose of classwork is to provide students with opportunities to practice skills that are necessary to meet grade level objectives in each course. Students are provided grade level instruction, as well as remediation or enrichment as needed. They are also given opportunities to work independently and with peers to develop skills in creating, thinking critically, evaluating, and building social skills.

#### Homework

Similar to classwork, homework provides students an opportunity to independently practice skills that are necessary to meet grade level objectives in each course. Homework is assigned at the discretion of each teacher and will vary based on grade level.

Parents can...

- Provide students time to complete homework and a quiet place to do so.
- Check with students each night to make sure that they have completed all homework.
- Remind students to study for quizzes and tests.
- Communicate with teachers if there are any questions or concerns about completing homework.

#### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act with honor and integrity in all areas of their academic life. Students should not misrepresent the work of others as their own. This includes, but is not limited to, bringing answers into a testing area, communicating with other students during a test, copying homework or assessments from another student, providing answers for another student, or using unauthorized notes or technology. Failure to maintain academic integrity will result in disciplinary action as determined by administration.

#### Standards Based Grading

SVN is committed to promoting high achievement among our students. To assist in meeting this goal SVN has adopted standards-based grading. This means that a student's grade represents their understanding of grade level content objectives and their ability to demonstrate this understanding independently.

#### Grading Scale

Students in grades K-4 will receive an overall grade that is a numerical score on a scale of 0-4. Students in grades 5-8 will receive an overall grade that is a letter grade.

3.6 - 4.0	А	Proficient
3.2 - 3.5	В	Nearing Proficiency
2.8 - 3.1	С	Below Proficiency
0-2.7	D/F	Well Below Proficiency

#### <u>Honor Roll</u>

The honor roll is published each trimester and honors middle school  $(5^{th} - 8^{th} \text{ grade})$  students who have a "B" (3.0) or higher average grade in all subjects.

#### Grade Cards

Grade cards will be sent home at the conclusion of each quarter. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress.

#### **Promotion**

A student may be promoted on the basis of academic achievement and/or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit, a student must demonstrate mastery on grade-level standards and meet the state and district requirements for attendance.

#### **Promotion of Students in Kindergarten**

Students in kindergarten may be promoted to the next grade level after demonstrating satisfactory completion of curricular grade level standards and meeting the 90% attendance requirement.

#### Promotion of Students in 1st through 3rd Grade

Students in 1st - 3rd grades may be promoted to the next grade level if the following conditions have been satisfied:

- Satisfactory completion of curricular grade level standards
- The student must also score at or above the 30th percentile in both the Reading and Mathematics NWEA MAP test during the Spring or Summer testing period.
- The student must have attended at least 90% of classes throughout the year.

If a student satisfies yearly curricular standards but fails to satisfy attendance and/or NWEA MAP requirements, then the Building Principal and the student's classroom teacher will make a decision as to promotion.

#### **Promotion of Students in Grades 4-5**

Students in grades 4–5 may be promoted to the next grade level if the following conditions have been satisfied:

- The student must have maintained a yearly average of 60% in core classes (Communication Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science).
- The student must have maintained a yearly average of 60% in non-core classes.

- The student must also score at or above the 30th percentile in both the Reading and Mathematics NWEA MAP test during the Spring or Summer testing period.
- The student must have attended at least 90% of classes throughout the year.

If a student satisfies core class yearly average condition but fails to satisfy the non-core class yearly average, attendance and/or NWEA MAP requirements, then the Building Principal and the student's classroom teacher(s) will make a decision as to promotion.

#### **Promotion of Students in Grades 6–8**

Students in grades 6-8 may be promoted to the next grade level if the following conditions have been satisfied:

- The student must have maintained a yearly average of 60% in core classes Communication Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science).
- The student must have maintained a yearly average of 60% in non-core classes.
- The student must have attended at least 90% of classes throughout the year.
- The student must also score at or above the 30th percentile in both Reading and Mathematics NWEA MAP test at least once throughout the current school year.

If a student satisfies core class yearly average condition but fails to satisfy the non-core class yearly average and/or attendance then the Building Principal and the student's classroom teacher(s) will make a decision as to promotion.

#### Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program

Students of Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School have the right to participate in the Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP). Families interested in enrolling their child(ren) in a course through MOCAP must contact SVN to receive enrollment information. A school team will review the enrollment information and make a "best educational interest" determination. The request may be denied for good cause based on "best educational interest" of the child. If the request is approved, SVN will begin the process of enrolling the student with the appropriate MOCAP vendor.

#### SCHOOL BEHAVIOR/CONSEQUENCES

General Expectations

Pride in SVN is demonstrated by the way students treat other students, teachers, and property. Thoughtfulness, responsibility, and respect are expectations that should be demonstrated by everyone. Good behavior is essential both in the building and in all school related activities. Each student's behavior is expected to be exemplary at all times.

Like students, the school has certain rights. One of these rights is to be protected from disturbances. The guiding principal of the behavior expectations and consequences at SVN is: NO STUDENT OR PARENT/ GUARDIAN HAS THE RIGHT TO INTERFERE WITH THE LEARNING OF ANOTHER STUDENT OR SAFETY OF ANOTHER STUDENT, TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR, OR STAFF MEMBER. As students progress through their schooling, they are expected to demonstrate an increasingly exemplary standard of behavior. Students are encouraged and taught to:

• Demonstrate a positive attitude

- Respect the rights and feelings of others
- Support the learning process
- Be responsible for personal and school property
- Exercise self-control

In addition, Parents/Guardians of students are expected to display and model for their student(s) appropriate behavior when coming to SVN for school events or meetings with teachers or administrators. If a parent's/guardian's behavior becomes threatening or verbally abusive parent/guardian will be asked to leave the premises and may be banned from physically coming to the school up to and including the entire school year, limiting their interaction to either phone calls, texts or email. Continued inappropriate, disrespectful behavior (to include but not limited to yelling, cursing, threatening language) of parents/guardians toward teachers, staff or administrators can result in the expulsion of your student(s) since a key factor in the success of a student(s) is the team effort of school and family and that team effort cannot be effectuated if the parent/guardian continues to have negative interactions with SVN staff and faculty.

#### Hallway Etiquette

Students are expected to be respectful of the learning environment at all times. This includes when they are traveling in the hallways. Students should not sit or congregate in the hallway, doorways, or intersections. In general, student voices should be at a whisper, however, upon entering a Quiet Zone, silence is expected. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

#### Social Emotional & Behavioral Learning

Our goal at SVN is to provide each student with a safe and supportive learning environment. No student has the right to interfere with the learning of another student. To help students learn to behave responsibly and be accountable for their choices we employ the philosophy of Conscious Discipline.

The following skills are fundamental to Conscious Discipline:

- Composure (anger management)
- Encouragement (kindness, caring, helpfulness)
- Assertiveness (bully prevention, healthy boundaries)
- Choices (impulse control, goal achievement)
- Empathy (emotional regulation)
- Positive Intent (cooperation, problem solving)
- Consequences (learning from your mistakes)

Students are taught these skills so that a partnership can be established between students and school staff. When students are struggling staff will work with students to identify the issue, process a positive way to deal with the situation, and be accountable for their choices.

# **Bullying**

SVN defines bullying as unwanted, aggressive behavior among school age children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. **The behavior is repeated over time.** Accordingly, one argument, teasing incident or physical altercation does not necessarily constitute bullying. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically

or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose. Please visit www.stopbullying.gov for more information.

#### Computer System Regulations

Kindergarten –  $2^{nd}$  grade students are assigned an ipad and  $3^{rd} - 8^{th}$  grade students at SVN are assigned a laptop to be used for educational purposes identified by their teachers. The student is solely responsible for all actions taken using their computer. Students are required to sign a technology agreement that outlines guidelines for computer, Internet, and network guidelines. Students in violation of the technology agreement will lose computer privileges and may face additional disciplinary action. The student may be required to pay for damages to school technology as determined by administration. Please refer the technology agreement for additional information.

#### Drug, Tobacco, and Alcohol Policy

Students, staff members and visitors are prohibited from possessing or using drugs, alcohol, tobacco, other related products (including, but not limited to, e-cigarettes and vaping devices). This includes, but is not limited to, all school buildings, on or about school grounds, and at all school activities. No student may leave the school campus during the school day to engage in the activities prohibited by this paragraph. Failure to meet these expectations will result in disciplinary action as determined by school administration.

#### Personal Searches

Student lockers, desks, backpacks, purses, and clothing may be searched at any time when reasonable suspicion warrants this action. Students may be asked to submit to voluntary personal searches of items such as clothing when reasonable suspicion warrants this action. Searches may include the use of local or federal law enforcement and/or bomb, drug or weapon sniffing dogs. When a search is deemed necessary, students are expected to cooperate with school administration or law enforcement. Failure to do so may result in referral to appropriate law enforcement and disciplinary action. Random searches may be conducted for any reason. Some examples are, but not limited to, suspicion of concealing tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons, stolen property, material of a disruptive nature, or other items that pose a danger to students or school staff.

A school administrator and staff member or law enforcement will conduct all searches. Parents will be notified by a phone message if a personal search has occurred.

#### Detention

After notice to the parents/guardians, a 5th – 8th grade student may be asked to serve a detention after the regular school day. Failure to serve a detention will result in further disciplinary action, which may include being assigned in school suspension.

#### Suspension, Expulsion, Duty to Educate & Re-enrollment

**In-School Suspension**. Defined as the removal of a student from regular classes and assignment to an in-school suspension setting in the School. The student's teachers send class assignments to in-school suspension. The student may not attend or participate in extracurricular activities while assigned to in-school suspension. A teacher may request that a student who has been assigned to in-school suspension be allowed to attend his/her class (such as lab classes). The granting

of this request is limited to cases where it is extremely important that a class not be missed or where a class cannot be made up at a later date. The Superintendent has the final decision.

For minor offenses, in lieu of in-school suspension, and upon student or parent request, students may be given the option of school service (i.e., picking up trash on the school grounds, cleaning lunchroom tables, etc.), provided the school service is age-appropriate, supervised, and does not include restroom duties.

**Out-of-School Suspension**. Defined as the removal of a student from School for one to ten school days. The Superintendent may impose an out-of-school suspension of up to ten school days. Schoolwork missed during 1-3 day suspensions may be made up when the student returns to school. For suspensions of 4-10 school days, parents/guardians may request schoolwork and pick up the schoolwork during school hours.

**Long-term Suspension.** Defined as the removal of a student from School for more than ten school days but not beyond the current school semester. Only Board of Directors may impose long-term suspension. A student on long-term suspension who has not been referred to an alternative school may not receive homework, make up work, or take semester exams unless allowed to do so by the Board of Directors. A student on long-term suspension is not allowed on school property and may not participate in any school activities or school functions.

In some cases (limited to one per student per academic year), the Superintendent may temporarily postpone a student's suspension if the offense was committed at a critical time in the academic calendar (i.e., immediately before final exams). This does not apply to offenses that are violations of state or federal law or that involve weapons, violence, or drugs.

**Expulsion**. Defined as the removal of a student from School for a specified period of time beyond the current semester. Only the Board of Directors may impose expulsion. A student who has been expelled may not attend any school within the LEA but may apply for readmission after six months.

Alternative School. A student who is removed from SVN for more than 10 school days may be allowed to attend an alternative school for instruction, academic support, and counseling. Alternative school enables a student to take academic classes that allow the student to keep up with the course credit requirements toward graduation. The student may not return to SVN or any other school or attend any extracurricular activities while attending an alternative school pursuant to a long-term suspension or expulsion.

**Probation**. "Probation" means that a student is placed on a trial period during which the student is expected to maintain good behavior. A student found guilty of certain offenses may be placed on probation by the Superintendent or the Board of Directors. Violation of a local school or school system rule while on probation may result in further disciplinary action, including a hearing before the Board of Directors.

**Restrictions on School Activities**. Students who are suspended or expelled will not be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activities, including school trips or graduations if these occur during the period of suspension or expulsion. A parent or guardian may, for good cause, petition the Superintendent for permission for the student to participate in school-sponsored activities. If denied permission by the Superintendent, the parent or guardian may appeal to the Board of Directors. The Board's decision shall be final.

#### Behavior/Expectation Violations and Discipline/Consequence

The following table contains specific behavior violations and the <u>potential range of consequences</u> for those violations. *However, it is not possible to list or anticipate every discipline situation that might occur. This table is meant only as a general guide. The severity of a situation and the frequency of discipline infractions will be taken into consideration when assigning consequences for student behavior. All final decisions regarding consequences assigned to students will be made by school administration in accordance with board policy.* 

Behavior Violation	Discipline/Consequence
Academic Dishonesty	Detention
	Parent contact
	Loss of credit for assignment or test
Assault/Fighting	Up to 10 days OSS and possible referral to law
	enforcement
Bullying	Detention
, ,	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
	Up to 10 days OSS
Disrespect of a School Staff or Peer	Detention
	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
	Up to 10 days OSS
General Misconduct (Including classroom disruptions)	Detention
······································	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
	Up to 3 days of OSS
Missing/Incomplete Work	Detention
of the first of th	Parent contact
	Loss of credit for assignment or test
Possession or use of a firearm	One calendar year suspension or expulsion, unless
	modified by the Board upon recommendation by the
	superintendent.
Possession of Dangerous or Inappropriate Items	Detention
	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
	Up to 10 days OSS
Possession or Use of a Weapon	Superintendent/Student conference
I.	ISS
	OSS 180 days out-of-school suspension
	Expulsion
Profane Language/Inappropriate Gesture/Public Displays	Detention
of Affection	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
Sale, purchase, transfer or distribution of any prescription	Expulsion
drug, alcohol, narcotic substance, unauthorized inhalants,	1
controlled substances, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs,	
imitation controlled substances or drug-related	
paraphernalia.	
Sexual Harassment: Verbal jokes, slurs, remarks, writings,	Detention
gestures, etc.	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
	Up to 10 days OSS and possible referral to law
	enforcement

	Detention
	Parent contact
	Up to 3 days of ISS
Theft	Detention
	Parent contact
	Restitution
	Up to 3 days of ISS
	Up to 10 days OSS
Threats – False Bomb	Restitution
Threats – Paise Bonio	Superintendent conference
	Detention
	ISS
	1-180 days OSS
	Expulsion
Threats - Terrorist	Restitution
	Superintendent conference
	Detention
	ISS
	1-180 days OSS
	Expulsion
Uniform Violation	Warning
	Parent Contact
	Detention
	Up to 3 days ISS
Use/Possession/Influence of Tobacco, Alcohol, or Drugs	Up to 10 days OSS and possible referral to law
	enforcement
Use/Possession of Tobacco	Confiscation of tobacco product
	Superintendent/Student conference
	Detention
	ISS
	1-10 day OSS
Vandalism	Restitution
	Superintendent/Student conference
	Detention
	ISS
	OSS 1-180 days
	Suspension
	Expulsion
*OSSOrt of other laws and a	Expulsion

\*OSS – Out of school suspension \*ISS – In school suspension \*All student behavior violations will be tracked in Kickboard and will result in a loss of weekly points.

#### **REQUIRED STATE/FEDERAL NOTIFICATIONS**

#### Elementary and Secondary Education Act (2015) Parent Notification

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires notification to parents when any of the following situations exist in a Local Education Agency (LEA) receiving federal funds.

1. LEAs must annually disseminate DESE's ESSA Complaint Procedures to parents of students and appropriate nonpublic school officials or representatives.

2. At the beginning of each school year, a participating LEA must notify the parents of each student attending a school that receives Title I.A funds that they may request, and the LEA will provide in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers and any paraprofessionals providing services to their child.

3. A school that receives Title I.A funds must provide all parents notice their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher or a person who is not appropriately certified.

4. Within 30 days after the beginning of the school year, an LEA must inform parents their child has been identified for participation in a language instruction educational program.

5. Parents/guardians of students enrolled in a persistently dangerous school or students who are victims of violent criminal offense while on school property must be notified of their option to transfer their student to a school that is not designated persistently dangerous.

6. Testing Transparency – LEAs must make available to the public for each grade and each assessment required by the state, the following:

- a. the subject matter assessed;
- b. the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
- c. the source of the requirement for the assessment (statutory cite);
- d. the amount of time spent on the assessment;
- e. the schedule for administering the assessment; and,
- f. the time and format for disseminating results.



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our district is required to inform you of information that you, according to the "Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015" (Public Law 114-95), have the right to know.

Upon your request, our district is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether your student's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition to the information that parents may request, a building receiving Title I.A funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under Title I.A.
- Timely notice that your student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who has not met applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

#### Complaint Procedures

The following explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs<sup>1</sup> that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)<sup>2</sup>.

#### **1.** What is a complaint?

For these purposes, a complaint is a written allegation that a local education agency (LEA) or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) has violated a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under ESSA.

#### 2. Who may file a complaint?

Any individual or organization may file a complaint.

# 3. How can a complaint be filed?

Complaints can be filed with the LEA or with the Department.

#### 4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?

Complaints filed with the LEA are to be investigated and attempted to be resolved according to the locally developed and adopted procedures.

**5.** What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)? A complaint not resolved at the local level may be appealed to the Department.

#### 6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department?

A complaint filed with the Department must be a written, signed statement that includes:

- 1. A statement that a requirement that applies to an ESSA program has been violated by the LEA or the Department, and
- 2. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated.

#### 7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?

The investigation and complaint resolution proceedings will be completed within a time limit of forty-five calendar days. <u>That time limit can be extended by the agreement of all parties.</u>

<sup>1</sup> Programs include Title I. A. B, C. D, Title II, Title III, Title IV.A, Title V In compliance with ESSA Title VIII- Part C. Sec. 8304(a)(3)(C) Revised 4/17

Local education agencies are required to disseminate, free of charge, this information regarding ESSA complaint procedures to parents of students and appropriate private school officials or representatives.

The following activities will occur in the investigation:

- •Record. A written record of the investigation will be kept.
- Notification of LEA. The LEA will be notified of the complaint within five days of the complaint being filed.
- •**Resolution at LEA.** The LEA will then initiate its local complaint procedures in an effort to first resolve the complaint at the local level.
- •**Report by LEA.** Within thirty-five days of the complaint being filed, the LEA will submit a written summary of the LEA investigation and complaint resolution. This report is considered public record and may be made available to parents, teachers, and other members of the general public.
- •Verification. Within five days of receiving the written summary of a complaint resolution, the Department will verify the resolution of the complaint through an on-site visit, letter, or telephone call(s).
- **Appeal.** The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the U.S. Department of Education.

# 8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?

In addition to the procedures listed in number 7 above, complaints related to equitable services will also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, and they will receive all information related to the investigation and resolution of the complaint. Also, appeals to the United States Department of Education must be filed no longer than thirty days following the Department's resolution of the complaint (or its failure to resolve the complaint).

# 9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated?

The Department will initiate an investigation within ten days, which will be concluded within thirty days from the day of the appeal. This investigation may be continued beyond the thirty day limit at the discretion of the Department. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Department will communicate the decision and reasons for the decision to the complainant and the LEA. Recommendations and details of the decision are to be implemented within fifteen days of the decision being delivered to the LEA.

# 10. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?

The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the United States Department of Education.

#### Child Find Notice

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. Scuola Nuova Vita Charter School assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, deaf/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment/blindness and young child with a developmental delay.

Scuola Nuova Vita Charter School assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Scuola Nuova Vita Charter School has developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed in the school's office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

#### FERPA Notice: Provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School is mandate to inform each parent/guardian of eligible student that "Directory Information" may be released by school officials, including print and electronic publications of the district. Such information is also considered a "public record," which must be released upon demand to any person who requires it under the Missouri Sunshine Law. Directory Information is information designated by the district which, if disclosed, would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy. Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School designates the following items as Directory Information.

#### Students

Student's name: parent's name; date of birth; grade level; bus assignment; enrollment status (e.g., fulltime or part-time); participation in school-based activities and sports; weight and height of members of athletic teams; dates of attendance; degrees, honors and awards received; artwork or coursework displayed by the district; most recent previous school attended; and photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound unless such photographs, videotapes, digital images and recorded sound would be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy.

Federal law requires school districts that receive federal funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 to provide military recruiters upon request Directory Information unless parents have notified the District that they do not want the information disclosed without their prior consent.

Student Records (as they apply to military recruiters)

Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School may notify parents/guardian of secondary school students that is it required to release the student's name, address and telephone listing to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request. Parents/guardians or eligible students may request that the District not release this information and the district shall comply with the request.

# Reporting Child Abuse

State law requires that any school employee who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes the child being subjected to conditions which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect, must immediately report or cause a report to be made to the Missouri Children's Division.

#### Educational Rights of Homeless Students

#### Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there
- Attend either their school of origin or their local school
- Receive associated transportation services
- Enroll in school immediately, even if missing documents normally required for enrollment, such as:
  - birth certificate,
  - proof of residence,
  - school records,
  - Immunization (shots) or medical records
  - proof of income
- Have immediate access to free lunch (without filling out forms)
- Engage in all the same programs and services that are available to all other students

#### Who Qualifies for Services?

Homeless children are those who lack a fixed, regular or adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- Temporarily "doubled-up" with relatives or friends due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar issue
- Living in motels, hotels, or campgrounds
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters
- Awaiting foster care placement
- Runaway youth, as well as youth not residing with their legal guardian
- Living in housing without heat, lights, or water

#### Services and Supports

Homeless children may require the following:

- School Transportation
- School supplies and backpacks
- Uniforms for school
- School Activity and Field Trip Fees
- Before and after school tutoring
- Case Management
- Resource Referrals

# English as a Second Language Services Notice

Scuola Vita Nuova provides English as a Second Language (ESL) services to students. See below what qualifies for Limited English Proficiency and ESL services:

The term 'limited English proficient', when used with respect to an individual, means an individual

- who is aged 3 through 21; who is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary school or secondary school;
- who was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English; who is a Native American or Alaska Native, or a native resident of the outlying areas; and who comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the individual's level of English language proficiency; or
- who is migratory, whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant; and
- whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual
  - the ability to meet the State's proficient level of achievement on State assessments described in section 1111(b)(3);
  - the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or the opportunity to participate fully in society.



# Scuola Vita Nuova Public Charter School SCHOOL - HOME COMPACT



#### STUDENT AGREEMENT

- I will be at school on time each morning with ready to learn.
- I will show respect and cooperate with all members of my learning community.
- I will work cooperatively with others and use accountable talk in class discussions.
- I will be responsible for my own learning by utilizing all school resources.
- I will complete all my class work and homework to the best of my ability.
- I will complete my homework each night
- I will strive to be a leader every day.

#### PARENT AGREEMENT:

- I will ensure that my child attends school daily and on time.
- I will set aside time each night for my child to read and complete homework.
- I will model life-long learning for my child.
- I will actively participate as a member of the Scuola Vita Nuova learning community.
- I will communicate regularly with Scuola Vita Nuova concerning my child's well-being and academic progress.

#### SVN STAFF AGREEMENT:

- SVN staff will provide a safe, positive and healthy learning community.
- SVN staff will take into account the individual strengths and needs for each child.
- SVN staff will help each child grow as a lifelong learner and leader.
- SVN staff will communicate with parents regarding their child's progress.
- SVN staff will provide opportunities for parent/family participation.



Student Name:	Grade
---------------	-------

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the SVN Student Handbook and have received required State/Federal Notifications, as well as the School-Home Compact.

Student Signature:	Dat	e:

Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:	

# PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR TEACHER BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28.