



This **2023-2024** Student-Parent Handbook belongs to:

Student:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code	Kansas City	MO	641
Telephone:	( )	Grade	:

The recipient of this Handbook acknowledges and accepts their responsibility to read, understand and adhere to the policies and procedures of its content. 8/01/2023



**Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Race, Ethnicity, Disability, Religion, or Gender**

University Academy does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), as amended, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. The provisions of Title IX apply to students with regard to educational opportunities and freedom from harassment, employees with regard to employment opportunities and freedom from harassment, and to individuals with whom the Board does business.

The following person is the designee who handles inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Mr. Anthony McDaniel  
Chief Compliance Officer  
6801 Holmes Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
(816) 412-5900

This Handbook is subject to Board policy. The Board of Directors reserves the right to change Board policy, as well as this Handbook. The most current version of the Handbook is available at [www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org). Board-approved changes to the Handbook or Board policy do not void the Parent and Student Agreements to the provision of this Handbook.

### **Common Sense Statement**

No handbook can contain policies for *every* possible eventuality. Any action that would create an environment contrary to University Academy and its mission is not acceptable. If the action creates an environment in which learning is not the primary focus, disciplinary action will result. University Academy expects its students to use “common sense” in making decisions about their behavior choices. Discipline is progressive based on the number of violations. University Academy has the authority to change/adjust procedures as necessary to follow CDC guidelines.

### **Parent / Guardian and Student Acknowledgement**

University Academy expects all parents/guardians and students to read and understand the Student and Parent Handbook, the Discipline Guidelines, and the Transportation Handbook (collectively, the “Handbook”) and to follow the rules and regulations set forth whether or not students attend school traditionally or remotely.

Therefore, parents/guardians are required to review every page of the Handbook with their student(s). Discussions and reviews of the Handbook conducted by school staff are in addition to, not instead of, the parents or guardians review. Failure to read the Handbook will not prevent students from being accountable for their behavior and receiving consequences listed within this Handbook but could limit their access to certain programs at University Academy.

***Note:** This Handbook is a “living document,” meaning it may be revised at any time by University Academy.*

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**Welcome!**

**It's the**

**2023-2024**

**School**

**Year!**

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## **I. 2023-2024 ACADEMICS**

### **Academic Integrity**

University Academy expects all students to adhere to the highest standards of academic and scholarly performance. Cheating on schoolwork and/or plagiarism (misrepresenting another person's work as your own) are serious academic violations. These violations also include not being honest with school personnel and forging the signature of a parent/guardian and/or teachers. This will result in serious consequences as outlined in the Discipline Policy. Consequences include, but are not limited to, receiving a score of zero on a specific assignment and a mandatory parent conference.

### **Academics**

In addition to the courses that University Academy offers, the school also encourages juniors and seniors to take dual-credit classes at various local universities, which include the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Rockhurst University, St. Luke's College of Nursing, and the Metropolitan Community College (MCC) system. This is a valuable program that effectively broadens our course offerings, allows our students to experience actual college classes, and gives them confidence that they can succeed in college. If a student completes the required credits to graduate, or is on pace to complete the required credits, with Principal and Superintendent approval, the student may enroll in classes at a local college or university for up to half of each school day. Students may also earn recovery credit via MCC if necessary. Families are responsible for fees associated with credit recovery.

### **College Counseling**

The college counselor helps students understand the importance of developing academic and career goals and helps them assess their individual interests, talents, abilities, and personality to help them attain those goals. The college counselor also plans activities for each grade level that culminates with all juniors and seniors taking Junior and Senior Seminar (a year-long program that focuses on how to enter and succeed in college). University Academy staff works with individual students and their parents to plan for college and guide them through the entire process.

University Academy's guidance does not end when our students graduate from high school. To provide guidance as necessary, parents and students sign an agreement enabling University Academy staff to follow-up on University Academy graduates while they are attending college and beyond.

### **Computer Lab**

The Library/Media Center has two computer labs for classroom usage. Classroom teachers schedule computer lab time. Individual computer stations are available for students to use, if they have written permission from their teachers, to use the Library's computer resources during class time.

### **Field Trips**

Field trips and excursions are available as a part of the students' learning. The principals carefully plan, organize, and approve all such activities. Schools will notify parents/guardians of all pertinent information regarding the field trip in advance. No student may leave the school on

a field trip if they do not have parental/guardian written permission. If your student does not have written permission, or if the student has not satisfied the requirements made by the school, your student will remain under adult supervision at the school. Students must have all passing grades *without* Fs to participate in school-sponsored trips and/or parties, which include Prom, Homecoming, and the Senior Trip. University Academy complies with the Missouri State High School Athletic Association (MSHSAA) guidelines and rules. For more information, refer to the University Academy Athletic Handbook.

Suspension of bus-riding privileges is possible pending payment of any outstanding account balances, meals, field trips, ASP, etc. Extensive planning goes into scheduling field trips. Most field trips require advance payment and therefore prohibit refunds of any type.

Students will not be able to participate in a school field trip if they are currently serving a suspension of any type: bus suspension, In School Intervention, or Out-of-School-Suspension.

Teachers requesting parent volunteers for a Field Trip MUST have Administration authorization prior to allowing parents to volunteer.

### **Grading System**

Grading systems vary from school to school. You can find the grading scale for each school on the respective administrator's website.

*Note: IEP MARKINGS – IEPs are marked according to the guidelines of the individual goals on a quarterly basis.*

### **Homework Policy**

University Academy assigns homework to support and reinforce the information taught by instructors during the academic day. Failure to complete and submit assigned homework on time will have a negative impact on a student's academic progress.

### **Individual Educational Plans (IEPs) and Special Education**

University Academy offers Special Education services in all areas of exceptionality based on the Individual Education Plan (IEP) of identified students.

University Academy assures that it will provide a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to each qualified disabled person in the School regardless of the nature or severity of the person's disability. For purposes of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the provision of an appropriated education includes regular or special and related aids and services designed to meet the individual educational needs of disabled persons as adequately as the needs of nondisabled persons. The basis is adherence to procedures that satisfy the requirements of the 504 federal regulations.

## **Internet Usage Policy and Technology Agreement**

### **Technology Usage**

University Academy Charter School technology exists for maximizing the educational opportunities and achievement of University Academy students. It is the expectation that persons using school technology agree to follow University Academy policies and procedures and signs or electronically consents to University Academy's User Agreement prior to accessing or using University Academy technology resources. Research shows that students who have access to technology improves their achievement. In addition, technology assists with the professional enrichment of the staff and Board and increases engagement of students' families and other patrons of University Academy, all of which positively affect student achievement. University Academy will periodically conduct a technology census to ensure that instructional resources and equipment that support and extend the curriculum are readily available to teachers and students.

### **A Word about "Sexting" and Inappropriate Photos and Text Messages**

University Academy defines 'sexting' as "sending sexually explicit text or photographs via mobile devices" (cell phones/tablets). The State of Missouri Children's Division requires placing a Hotline call regarding students who send sexual photos to each other. The Children's Division considers those types of photos child pornography and can be sent to law enforcement for handling; especially if the photos are of children of any age.

For the full University Academy Technology Policy, please visit our website at [www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org).

### **1 to 1 Device Program: Student Expectations**

By taking possession of the District-owned Chromebook, University Academy expects students to adhere to the following 4 guidelines:

1. Be empowered. Do awesome things with this technology. Share with us your ideas and what you can do and learn. Amaze your community.
2. Be caring. Help foster a school community that is respectful and kind.
3. Be smart and safe. If you are uncertain, talk with us.
4. Be careful and gentle. Our resources are limited. Help us take care of our devices and network.

## Parent/ Guardian Expectations

By your student taking possession of the District-owned Chromebook, University Academy Charter School expects parents/guardians to adhere to the following responsibilities;

1. Must agree to monitor student use at home and away from school.
2. The parents/guardians are responsible for the cost of repair or replacement at the date of loss if the property is :
  - a. Not returned
  - b. Intentionally damaged
  - c. Lost
  - d. Stolen, but not reported to school and/or police in a timely manner.
3. Must Complete the online and in-person 1:1 Student Technology Orientation prior to the delivery of the device to the student.
4. Parent/Guardian must pay the \$15 University Academy Device Fee before their child can use their issued Chromebooks. The fee is nonrefundable and mandatory.

### **Library/Media Center Hours**

6:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (*when school is in session*)

Students are welcome to use the Library during these hours when accompanied by a staff member, with their class, or by presenting a pass signed by their teacher or administrator. School rules apply to Library usage.

### **Library/Media Center Policies**

The mission of the Library Media Program is to provide resources that support and enrich the school's instructional goals and afford opportunities for students and staff to become effective users of information. Checkout of library materials is not mandatory. If you do not wish to have your student check out library materials, please send a note to your child's teacher requesting that your child not check out books.

### **Library/Media Center: The Collection**

The Library subscribes to a wide range of online databases for student and staff use. It has over 24,000 items.

1. Librarians recommend materials with a "J" (Juvenile) prefix for Lower School students.
2. Middle and Upper School students may consider all other materials.



In addition, our Library catalog provides guidance for grade level suitability and other reading program indicators. Although teachers and librarians are committed to offering the best readers advisory assistance to our students, parents are encouraged to take an active role in monitoring their student's use of library resources. Reading competency may be at a level not necessarily compatible with a book's content for some students.

### **Library/Media Center**

#### **Circulation:**

Elementary School (Grades K-5):

- Students may check out books for 1 week – limit of two (2) books.
- Before checking out new books, students must return previously borrowed books. Students may return books before the due date and check out two (2) new books.
- Lost or damaged books require replacement costs.

Middle (6-8) and Upper Schools (9-12):

- Students may check out books for 2 weeks – limit of two (2) books.
- Before checking out new books, students must return previously borrowed books.
- Overdue books assess a fine of \$.05 per book, per day.
- Lost and damaged books require replacement costs.

Students may check out books during their scheduled library visit. Overdue library materials assess a fine of five cents (\$0.05) per book, per day until returned. Prior to the issue of grades, library obligations must be resolved each semester.

#### **MOCAP (Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program)**

Students wanting or needing additional opportunities to learn outside of the regular classroom may earn credits through online, virtual courses sponsored by University Academy, or through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP). University Academy will accept all grades and credits earned through MOCAP and through University Academy sponsored curriculum.

University Academy is designed to prepare students to succeed in an institution of higher education and to become leaders in society, and readiness for college hinges upon students mastering University Academy's programs and curriculum. Virtual courses are encouraged for students deficient in credit so that they are able to complete graduation requirements in a timely manner. However, a student who is on track to graduate but who wishes to supplement their coursework with a virtual course in addition to their full, daily schedule may request permission to take a virtual course from a University Academy Counselor. University Academy is not required to provide access to or pay for virtual courses beyond the equivalent of full-time enrollment. In the event a student/parent/guardian wishes to pay for a virtual course on their own, the student/parent/guardian should meet with University Academy counselors and/or teachers to ensure that the coursework is consistent with the student's academic and personal goals. For details on MOCAP, please visit the school's website, [www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org).

Administration will determine when and if a student can attend virtual learning as an option depending on the circumstance and duration of the need. This may be done by administration or parent request for specific circumstances. This decision to grant a virtual learning option is left up to each individual building administrator or their designee.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Twice during the school year, University Academy will schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences. Parent-Teacher Conferences may occur via video conference. School administration highly recommends that parents/guardians contact their child's teacher(s) in advance to schedule their conference. In addition to Parent-Teacher Conferences, parents and guardians are encouraged to contact the principal or their student's teachers anytime they have any questions or concerns regarding their child's academics and behavior during the school year.

### **School Counselors**

University Academy supports a systematic program of guidance and counseling in which all students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade have access. This program is a total education process with a priority of assisting students in reaching their full potential in their personal and educational development.

The guidance and counseling program may include the following areas:

1. Counseling
2. Developmental Guidance
3. Testing
4. Orientation, Registration, and Scheduling
5. Referrals
6. Academic Assistance

Counselors can also provide information on occupations, study skills improvement, and information on colleges as well as career information.

### **Upper School Graduation Requirements**

Graduation requirements for University Academy Charter School are a minimum of 26 units of credit completed during grades nine (9) through twelve (12). Students in Upper School must also earn a minimum of 100 Community Service hours by the end of their senior year. **A minimum of 10 community service hours must be earned per academic school year.** Students may begin earning community service hours after the completion of the 8th grade year. Here are benchmarks to help guide students in earning community service hours:

#### **Class of 2024 and 2025:**

- 65 hours the Junior year
- 35 hours the Senior year

#### **Class of 2026:**

- 50 hours the Sophomore year
- 30 hours the Junior year

- 20 hours the Senior year

**Class of 2027 and beyond:**

- 20 hours the Freshman year
- 40 hours the Sophomore year
- 25 hours the Junior year
- 15 hours the Senior year

<b>Upper School Graduation Requirements</b>	
Advanced Electives (from English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Fine Arts or Foreign Languages) .....	3.5 units
Communication Arts (includes .5 unit of Oral Communication) .....	4.5 units
Fine Arts.....	1.0 unit
Foreign Language.....	2.0 units
Health..... ...	0.5 unit
Math..... ...	4.0 units
Personal Finance.....	0.5 unit
Physical Education.....	1.0 unit
Practical Arts.....	1.0 unit
Science (must take two of three units in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics) .....	4.0 units
Social Studies.....	4.0 units
Total:	26 units

A college preparatory certificate from the State of Missouri may be presented at graduation to students who complete these academic requirements, attain a grade point average in core subjects of 3.0 and score above the national norm on the ACT or SAT.

In addition to meeting the above credit requirements, seniors **must** attain a 96% average daily attendance rate, secure four (4) letters of admission to accredited four-year colleges or universities, OR be admitted into a top 15 university, and show signed documentation for having completed 100 hours of community service. Seniors must also pass all courses taken in their senior year at University Academy.

## II. 2023-2024 DRESS CODE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Students must observe modes of dress and standards of personal grooming that are in conformity with the educational environment and necessary to maintain an orderly and safe atmosphere for all students. This expectation includes the school day and school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

University Academy expects apparel to conform to reasonable student standards of modesty, and as such, no excessive or inappropriate areas of skin or undergarments may be exposed. University Academy prohibits apparel or grooming which presents a safety concern. University Academy further prohibits apparel, jewelry or body art displaying messages that are gang-related, sexually explicit, vulgar, violent, that advocates drugs/alcohol, or other illegal activities. Additionally, this policy prohibits clothing or personal grooming that disrupts or reasonably forecasts disruption of the educational environment.

The Dress Code Policy also stipulates, among other things, that generally, **all clothing must be navy-blue, white, and/or khaki**, but specifically:

- Students must wear a white, light blue (Columbia blue), or navy-blue polo-style shirt or a white button-down oxford style shirt. Shirts worn by students must be buttoned and show no cleavage.
- Shirts must have no visible logos, such as those for sports teams, decorations, or names, other than that of University Academy.
- Students may wear white or navy-blue t-shirts under their polo shirts.
- Students must always tuck in their shirts.
- Pants must be uniform in type either khaki or navy-blue.
- Students must wear belts with pants that have belt loops. The Dress Code Policy does not permit “sagging” or baggy pants.
- Students may wear knee-length skirts, below-the-knee Capri pants, dresses, jumpers, or walking shorts (no more than 2 inches above the knee).
- Tights or Leggings must be white, navy-blue, or black (solid colors) and can only be worn UNDER school uniform skirts or bottoms.
- Students may not wear caps/hats/hoods that interfere with the educational process. No bonnets, durags or wave caps.
- Students may not wear flip-flops. All shoes must have an enclosed back. Crocs are permitted while wearing socks and in sport mode (handle engaged at ankle).
- White or navy-blue sweaters or sweatshirts are permissible (no hoods). Students must wear a collared uniform shirt underneath. Students may not wear jackets or coats during class.
- Students are allowed to wear **UA branded merchandise** as long as a collared shirt is worn under it.
- University Academy students may not display body piercings other than ears or nose.
- Student-athletes who have “lettered” at UA may wear their Letter Jackets.

MS/US PE clothing and dress guidelines may differ for safety reasons while participating in PE. Please refer to each specific PE teacher's syllabus for information on safe clothing requirements during PE.

Referral to the principal's office is the consequence for students who are non-compliant with the University Academy Dress Code. Constant referrals for dress code violations may result in further disciplinary action.

The school nurse does not provide extra clothing for students *for any reason*. Students may bring extra clothing to keep in their lockers. Should a student need a change of clothing during the school day, the school will contact a parent or guardian. All soiled clothing must go home with the student. University Academy does not provide laundry services.

### **III. 2023-2024 ENROLLMENT, STUDENT TRANSCRIPTS AND WITHDRAWALS**

#### **Enrollment and Residency Eligibility**

University Academy shall enroll only pupils that reside within the Kansas City, Missouri Public School District. University Academy does not limit admission based on race, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, and income, proficiency in the English language or athletic ability. A child must be five (5) years of age *before* August 1 to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.

If current capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who submit a timely application at any grade level, University Academy will use a lottery admissions process that assures all applicants an equal chance of gaining admission, except that:

1. University Academy gives preference for admission of children whose siblings currently attend the school and children of University Academy staff.
2. University Academy also gives preferential enrollment to students who reside in the geographical area north and south, from 47<sup>th</sup> to 85<sup>th</sup> Streets, east, and west from Prospect Avenue and State Line Road, within the boundaries of the Kansas City Public School District.

#### **McKinney-Vento / Homeless Students**

A homeless student is one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes students who are staying in transitional or emergency shelters, campgrounds, motels, sharing housing with other families due to a loss of housing or an inability to afford housing, abandoned in a hospital, staying in substandard housing or living in places not ordinarily used for sleeping. This includes students who have run away or students whose parents have put them out of their homes. A homeless student may stay in the same school all year, if feasible, even if he/she moves out of our boundaries. Additionally, the student may enroll in the district in which he/she currently resides.

Homeless students are automatically eligible to participate in the school meals program, instructional services through Title I, and other district services intended to support academic

success such as tutoring and transportation to the school if it is in the best interest of the student. Please contact the District Homeless Liaison at (816) 412-5956 for any questions.

Once District officials have determined that an enrolling student is homeless, the District's homeless coordinator must assist the student in obtaining his/her education, immunization, medical, and other records. According to McKinney-Vento, the student must enroll in a school in the interim. 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 in §167.181.3, RSMo.

### **Restrictions on Attending School within the District**

No student shall be re-admitted or enrolled in a regular program of instruction if the student is convicted of:

- a) An indictment or information is filed against the student and no judgment is found,
- b) A petition is filed under Section RSMo.211.091 alleging the student committed an act and no judgment is found, or
- c) A person was adjudicated to have committed an act, which, if committed by an adult, would be one of the following:
  - First Degree Murder
  - Second Degree Murder
  - First Degree Assault
  - Forcible Rape
  - Forcible Sodomy
  - First Degree Robbery
  - Distribution of Drugs to a Minor
  - First Degree Arson
  - Kidnapping as a Class A Felony
  - Statutory Rape; and/or
  - Statutory Sodomy

This section shall not prohibit the re-admittance or enrollment of any student if a petition has been dismissed, or when a student has been acquitted or adjudicated not to have committed any of the above acts. In addition, this section shall not apply to a student identified under state eligibility criteria, with a disability, who is convicted or adjudicated guilty from an action related to the student's disability.

Finally, readers should not interpret anything in this section that will prohibit University Academy from enrolling a student in an alternative education program if University Academy determines such enrollment is appropriate.

### **SchoolMint**

To make the school enrollment process for parents/guardians easier and faster, University Academy uses SchoolMint. SchoolMint, an online enrollment and communication platform,

works with public, charter and private schools. SchoolMint allows parents/guardians the option of applying and registering with a computer or mobile device where they can upload required student documents, check the status of the application, and even select their preferred method of communication, i.e., email or text.

Once parents/guardians receive an offer of a seat at University Academy, they can remotely enroll their child through the SchoolMint account they create. After parents/guardians create their account, they *must* upload all documents required for registration through the Parent Account. **University Academy does not accept any documents at the school.** It is important that you pay close attention to all deadlines. University Academy strictly adheres to all stated deadlines in the enrollment process. Receiving an offer of a seat at University Academy does not mean your child will be attending University Academy. Once the Admissions Director receives all required paperwork, parents/guardians will receive notification of acceptance to University Academy.

Current University Academy parents/guardians must re-register their student(s) annually through their SchoolMint account for their student's enrollment for the upcoming school year to be complete (4-6 pages). If a parent/guardian fails to re-register their student(s) by the stated deadline, student re-enrollment is not complete. Please note that if a parent/guardian creates a new account in SchoolMint and completes an application for their student(s), this is **not** the re-registration process and your student(s) may be withdrawn if you miss the deadline. One way to ensure you completed the correct form is in the number of pages. There are between 4-6 pages for re-registration. If you complete only one page to re-register, more than likely, you completed the application for admission, not re-registration, and your student may be in danger of not attending University Academy the following school year.

The link with parent/guardian responsibilities for those enrolling a student or re-registering a current University Academy student is <http://universityacademy.schoolmint.net/signin>. It is particularly important that parents/guardians take the time to read and understand these responsibilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Director of Admissions.

### **Withdrawing Students**

Students who are withdrawn by a parent/guardian for any reason are required to notify the school's principal and/or the Director of Admissions and provide a specific reason for withdrawal. At the time of withdrawal, students must turn in all textbooks to the principal and parents/guardians must satisfy any outstanding debts (lunch account, library books or lost textbook/library book fees, athletic fees, etc.). All technology items must be returned or a fine will be assessed in accordance with the technology usage fee.

University Academy will respond within five (5) business days to requests by other schools for the records of students transferring from the school. Records transferred pursuant to such requests will include the written notification of criminal charges/adjudications by law enforcement officials for felony criminal acts.

## **IV. 2023-2024 GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Board of Directors**

Katie Kwo Gerson, Chairman of the Board  
Shirley Bush Helzberg, Founder and Secretary  
David W. Dickey, Treasurer  
J. Camille Hall, Member  
LeRay Warrior, Member  
Jeron Ravin, Member  
Paul Greenwood, Member

### **Board of Directors' Role**

The role of the University Academy Board of Directors is to set a mission and vision for the school, create a culture of high expectations and accountability, ensure the school has a rigorous College-preparatory academic program, hire and evaluate the superintendent, provide fiduciary oversight, and adopt policies for the school. *The Board does not manage the day-to-day operations of the school.* The Board holds Monthly Board meetings at the school on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except for the months of December, March, and July) and are open to University Academy students and families.

### **Mission Statement**

Through high expectations, University Academy prepares students to succeed in institutions of higher education, and to serve as positive role models and valuable members of the community.

### **Philosophy and Commitment**

The philosophy of University Academy is rooted in our mission. We expect all our students to have the skills they need to succeed in college. Consequently, we have made the following commitments to help our students acquire those skills:

- Achieve rigorous educational results adding value each year to the students' knowledge and capacity to learn.
- Serve the whole child and to help students and their families manage issues that have the potential to detract from the students' opportunities and motivation to learn.
- Engage the interest, expertise, and participation of parents to build a school culture characterized by high expectations for student behavior and academic excellence, and shared accountability for results.

### **Vision Statement**

Our vision is to be the best college-preparatory charter public school in the country with an emphasis on college preparation, career development, community service, and leadership.



## **Character Traits**

*(Each month University Academy highlights a different character trait.)*

“Learning how to stand in somebody else’s shoes, to see through their eyes, that’s how peace begins. And it’s up to you to make that happen. Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world.” –

***Barack Obama, 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States***

### **Positive Attitude (*August*)**

A willingness to cooperate in appropriate ways

### **Honesty (*September*)**

The behavior that leads others to trust

### **Pride (*October*)**

Belief in oneself that leads to the accomplishments of achieving one’s positive goals

### **Self-Esteem (*November*)**

To feel good about yourself as a capable person with integrity

### **Teamwork (*December*)**

Cooperation and unity from all members

### **Respect (*January*)**

To show appreciation and consideration for the feelings, the ideas, the property and the culture of self and others

### **Perseverance (*February*)**

Never giving up on a goal, despite obstacles and challenges

### **Empathy (*March*)**

The ability to understand the feelings of another person and to act accordingly

### **Self-Discipline (*April*)**

Being able to govern one’s actions

### **Responsibility (*May*)**

Accepting your obligations and being personally accountable for one’s decisions and actions

### **Courage (*June*)**

Having the heart or guts to face difficult situations when feelings of fear are present

### **Forgiveness (*July*)**

A conscious, deliberate, decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance toward a person or group you perceive to have harmed you, regardless of whether they deserve your forgiveness.

### **Commitment by Parents/Guardians**

As a parent/legal guardian of a University Academy student, I understand that this school is a college preparatory program, and I will support the rigorous curriculum necessary whether remotely or in person. In support of my child's educational program, I will:

- Ensure my child has regular attendance and inform the school of any absences in a timely manner.
- Encourage my child to complete his/her homework each night.
- Maintain communication with my child's teachers and principal.
- Ensure the school has updated contact information as information changes.
- Volunteer.
- Attend parent/teacher/student conferences.
- Encourage my child to comply with school policies and regulations.
- Support the Board-approved Dress Code Policy.
- Monitor student progress through PowerSchool (parents may access PowerSchool at the school by appointment only).
- Comply with the policies and regulations as they pertain to academic excellence, behavior, transportation, cell phones/accessories and electronic media.
- Understand University Academy does not offer social promotion.

### **School-Parent Compact**

#### **Section 1116 (d) SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy developed under subsection (b), each school served under this part shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part is a school-parent **compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. They must also outline how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.** Such compact shall—

- 1) Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of extracurricular time; and
- 2) Address the importance of ongoing communication between teachers and parents through, at a minimum—

- A. Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement
- B. Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress
- C. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
- D. Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

### **Commitment by the Staff (including administrators)**

As a staff member of University Academy, I agree to the following terms and conditions:

- I will encourage students to attend school regularly and will make whatever contacts I feel necessary to improve student attendance.
- I will provide information to students, parents, and other staff members in a timely manner.
- I will take action to ensure that University Academy is a safe and orderly place in which to learn.
- I will provide opportunities for student leadership and innovation in an atmosphere of mutual respect.
- I will provide a student-centered, rigorous, and meaningful academic program of instruction for all students whether remotely or in person.
- I will support the Board-approved Dress Code Policy.
- I will comply with the policies and regulations as they pertain to academic excellence, behavior, cell phones/accessories and electronic media.

### **Commitment by Stakeholders**

In uniformly implementing the goals, expectations, and the Guide to Student Discipline, the Board of Directors believes that the students, their parents/guardians, and staff members must play key roles. Parents/Guardians and students are required to read and sign University Academy's Parent/Guardian and Student Acknowledgement in the Parent and Student Handbook.

### **Commitment by Students**

As a student of University Academy, I agree to the following terms and conditions:

- I will regularly be in attendance and on time.
- I understand that this school is a college preparatory academy, and the expectation is that I will attend an institution of higher education.
- I will successfully complete, with pride, all my assignments on time.
- I will comply with the policies and regulations of University Academy.
- I will comply with the Board-approved Dress Code Policy.
- I will comply with the policies and regulations as they pertain to academic excellence, behavior, transportation, cell phones/accessories and electronic media whether remotely or in person.
- I understand University Academy does not offer social promotion.

## Daily Schedules

	Middle School		Upper School
Breakfast	7:00 a.m. – 7:20 a.m.	Breakfast	7:00 a.m. – 7:20 a.m.
Period 1	7:30 a.m. – 8:20 a.m.	Advisory	7:25 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.
Period 2	8:23 a.m. – 9:13 a.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Period	7:45 a.m. – 8:35 a.m.
Period 3	9:16 a.m. – 10:06 a.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	8:40 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Period 4	10:09 a.m. – 10:59 a.m.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	9:35 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.
Lunch	11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	4 <sup>th</sup> Period	10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
Advisory	11:23 a.m. – 11:53 a.m.	Lunch	11:20 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.
Period 5	11:56 a.m. -12:46 p.m.	5 <sup>th</sup> Period	11:45 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.
Period 6	12:49 p.m. -1:39 p.m.	6 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:40 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.
Period 7	1:42 p.m. -2:32 p.m.	7 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:40 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

## Drug-Free Schools

Pursuant to requirements of the 1989 Amendments of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, and to the requirements of the Safe Schools Act, and for preventing the use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students, University Academy shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs to all students through grade twelve (12). Such programs will address the legal, social, and health consequences of drug and alcohol use, and provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol.

University Academy shall provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs that are available to students. Students may be required to participate in such programs to avoid suspension or expulsion if they violate the policy.

University Academy certifies that it has adopted and implemented the drug prevention program described in this policy in the form required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or the United States Department of Education. University Academy conducts a biennial review of such programs to determine its effectiveness to implement necessary changes and to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

## Harassment (including Sexual Harassment)

*(Board Policy 31)*

It is the policy of University Academy to maintain a safe learning environment for all students. University Academy prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment and discrimination because of race, color, sex, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or perceived sexual orientation. It shall be a violation of school policy for any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of this school to harass or unlawfully discriminate against a student through conduct of a sexual nature, or regarding race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or perceived sexual orientation as defined by school policy.

It is a violation of school policy for any teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of this school to tolerate sexual harassment or harassment of any type, because of a student's race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or perceived sexual orientation, as defined by school policy. It is also a violation of school policy for any teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of University Academy to tolerate sexual harassment or harassment of any type, because of a student's race, color, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, or perceived sexual orientation. This includes students, teachers, administrators, other school personnel, or third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaged in activities, including sporting events and other extracurricular activities, under the auspices of the school.

For purposes of school policy, University Academy defines sexual harassment as unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, which can be verbal or physical, and contain one or more of the following elements:

- submission to sexual advances is made (explicitly or implicitly) a condition of a student's academic status;
- submission or rejection of sexual advances is used as a basis for evaluating a student's performance;
- interferes with a student's educational performance, or
- creation of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

### **Title IX**

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces, among other statutes, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX protects people from discrimination based on sex in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX states:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities in federally funded schools at all levels.

If any part of a school district or college receives any Federal funds for any purpose, all of the operations of the district or college are covered by Title IX.

Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. All students (as well as other persons) at recipient institutions are protected by Title IX—regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, part- or full-time status, disability, race, or national origin—in all aspects of a recipient's educational programs and activities.

As part of their obligations under Title IX, all recipients of Federal financial assistance must designate at least one employee to coordinate their efforts to comply with and carry out his or her

responsibilities under Title IX and must notify all students and employees of that employee's contact information. This employee is generally referred to as the Title IX coordinator.

The essence of Title IX is that an institution may not exclude, separate, deny benefits to, or otherwise treat differently any person on the basis of sex unless expressly authorized to do so under Title IX or the Department's implementing regulations.

When a recipient is considering relying on one of the exceptions to this general rule (several of which are discussed below), Title IX coordinators should be involved at every stage and work with school officials and legal counsel to help determine whether the exception is applicable and, if so, properly executed.

University Academy has designated the following person to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator:

Mr. Anthony McDaniel  
University Academy  
6801 Holmes Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
816-412-5900  
mcdaniela@universityacademy.org

For more detailed Title IX information, please visit the U.S. Department of Education website at <https://www2.ed.gov/>.

### **Media Policy**

Throughout the year, University Academy may publish student photographs, video and/or audio clips, student quotes, and student writing and artwork, which have been deemed "Directory Information."

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law, requires that University Academy, with certain exceptions, obtain written consent from a parent / guardian prior to disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's educational record.

University Academy may disclose appropriately designated "Directory Information" without written consent unless you have advised University Academy to the contrary. The primary purpose of Directory Information is to allow University Academy to include certain information about your child in school publications. Examples include:

- The annual yearbook
- Honor roll
- Graduation programs
- A theatrical playbill
- Sports activity sheets
- Newsletters and other University Academy publications
- Videos of school performances and athletic events
- School social media and website pages

To obtain an opt-out form, please email Kellie Brady at [bradyk@universityacademy.org](mailto:bradyk@universityacademy.org).

### **Notice Provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

State law mandates University Academy to inform each parent, guardian, or eligible student that school officials may release “Directory Information” that may include print and electronic publications of University Academy. The Missouri Sunshine Law considers such information a “Public record” and must be released upon demand to any person who requests it. “Directory Information” is information not generally considered harmful and as designated by University Academy is not generally considered harmful, nor an invasion of privacy. University Academy designates the following items as Directory Information for students in Kindergarten through 12:

- student’s name
- parent’s name
- age (birthday month and day)
- grade level
- enrollment status (i.e., full-time, or part-time)
- most recent previous school attended
- participation in school-based activities and sports
- weight and height of members of athletic teams
- dates of attendance
- honors, awards, and diplomas received
- artwork or coursework displayed by University Academy
- photographs, videotapes, digital images, and recorded sound unless such 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 University Academy that they do not want the information disclosed without their prior consent.

### **Parent Contact with Students and Teachers during School Hours**

We strongly encourage you to do as much communication and business as you can via email or the phone, without coming to the school. **If you need to come to the school for any reason you must have an appointment.** The Front Office phone number is 816-412-5900. The Office Manager is Cynthia Kivett and her email is [kivette@universityacademy.org](mailto:kivette@universityacademy.org). **Staff that request parents to come to school for appointments must have building administration approval before setting the appointment.** All building visitors are encouraged to wear a mask if they are high risk or immunocompromised.

We acknowledge the importance of electronic communication between students and parents but strongly encourage parents to communicate with their child before and after school. If your student forgets lunch money, permission slip, a book, homework, or other items necessary for their day at school, you may bring those items to school. Instructional time is precious, and University Academy will protect students from unnecessary disruption. Interruption of classroom instruction will not occur to deliver whatever item or message you bring or send. Central Administration Office staff will ensure your student receives the item(s) during a time when it

does not disrupt your child's education and/or the classroom environment. Parents, visitors, and students who trespass are subject to escalation to local law enforcement authorities.

**A Note Regarding Holiday Celebrations, i.e., Valentine's Day, birthdays, etc.:** University Academy asks teachers to protect instruction time and limit parties. Parents/guardians of all University Academy students may **NOT** bring or send bouquets of flowers, balloons, stuffed animals, candy, or gifts to the school for students. It causes major disruptions to the learning process. School policy does not allow bus riders to transport those items on school buses.

Parents wanting to bring treats for special occasions should contact the classroom teacher ahead of time. Treats must be store-bought and pre-packaged. Parents and guardians are encouraged to select items on the USDA Smart Snacks list (<http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools>).

University Academy prohibits distribution of homemade treats. Out of consideration for all students in classrooms and at all grade levels, students should not distribute invitations for personal activities while at school or on the bus.

### **Pets and Animals**

University Academy does not allow pets and animals on campus, including school buses, except in accordance with law and policy. University Academy does permit service animals in accordance with the law. University Academy prohibits all animals and pets, including but not limited to dogs, cats, birds, fish, and reptiles, on school grounds, on the school bus, and at school-sponsored events and activities. The prohibition against pets includes time before and after the regular school day. During parent drop-off or parent pick-up, pets may not enter the school. Failure to follow the regulations may result in restriction of building access privileges and could affect your student's ability to attend University Academy.

### **Prohibition against Bullying** **(Board Policy 32)**

University Academy is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from any form of bullying or intimidation. The District strictly prohibits bullying on school grounds, during school time, electronically, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school-related context.

Bullying is the intentional action by an individual or group of individuals to:

- Inflict intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property.
- Substantially interfere with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or
- Substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying may consist of physical actions, including gestures, oral, cyberbullying, electronic, or written communication, and any threat of retaliation for reporting acts of bullying.



Cyberbullying means bullying as defined above through the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or tablet. University Academy may prohibit and/or discipline students for cyberbullying that originates on University Academy campus or at a University Academy activity. This includes a student using their own personal technical device while using the school's technological resources to send the electronic communication if there is a sufficient connection to the educational environment, or if the electronic communication was made on the University Academy campus or at a school activity. **Further, students who engage in significant acts of misconduct off campus that materially and adversely affects the education of University Academy students are subject to discipline.**

University Academy strictly prohibits bullying, as defined in this policy. Students are encouraged to report any incident of bullying they have witnessed or incurred, by contacting their building principal. University Academy employees are required to report any instance of bullying which the employee has witnessed within two (2) school days of the occurrence. Employees shall report the occurrence to the building principal, who is the person University Academy designates to receive reports of incidents of bullying. A principal who receives a report of an incident of bullying shall initiate an investigation into the allegations within two (2) school days of receipt of the report. The principal may assign other employees to assist in the investigation, or request that the Superintendent assign an outside investigator. The investigation shall be complete within ten (10) school days from the date of the written report of bullying unless good cause exists to extend the investigation. No employee or student who reports an act of bullying shall be subject to reprisal or retaliation for making such a report. Any person who engages in reprisal or retaliation against an employee or student who reports an act of bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Students found to have violated this policy will be subject to consequences dependent on factors such as the age of student(s), the degree of harm, the severity of behavior, the number of incidents, etc. Possible consequences for a student who violates this policy include: loss of privileges, classroom intervention, conference with their teacher, contacting parents, conference with principal, in-school intervention, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and contact with law enforcement.

University Academy shall give annual notice of the policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff. This policy shall be included in all student handbooks. This policy shall also be posted on University Academy's website (as a Board policy) and a copy shall be placed in the University Academy Administrative Offices.

University Academy shall provide information and appropriate training to University Academy staff that have significant contact with students regarding the policy. All staff with significant student contact will receive training on the requirements of this policy on an annual basis.

University Academy shall provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to address bullying, including student peer-to-peer initiatives to provide accountability and policy enforcement for those found to have engaged in bullying, reprisal, or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying. University Academy

shall instruct its school counselors, school social workers, licensed social workers, and mental health professionals to educate students who are victims of bullying on techniques for students to overcome the negative effects of bullying. Such techniques include but are not limited to, cultivating the student's self-worth and self-esteem; teaching the student to defend oneself assertively and effectively; helping the student develop social skills or encouraging the student to develop an internal focus of control. District administrators will implement programs and other initiatives to address bullying, to respond to such conduct in a manner that does not stigmatize the victim, and to make resources or referrals available to victims of bullying.

### **Prohibition against Drugs and Alcohol** ***(Board Policy 56)***

The improper use of controlled substances, alcohol, and substances represented to be such is detrimental to discipline in school. Such conduct, as well as the possession of drug paraphernalia, are always prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.

### **Prohibition against Firearms and Weapons** ***(Board Policy 17)***

The presence of firearms and weapons poses a substantial risk of serious harm to school students, staff, and community members. Therefore, University Academy always prohibits possession of firearms and weapons on school premises except for law enforcement officials. As used in this policy, the phrase “*school premises*” includes all school buildings, grounds, vehicles, and parking areas. This prohibition also extends to the sites of school activities whether those activities occur on or off school property.

Individuals who violate this policy receive severe discipline and are subject to expulsion. University Academy will notify law enforcement officials and the individual(s) violating this policy must leave the school premises.

We reserve the right to perform random safety screenings throughout the year anywhere on University Academy premises. These screenings may include, but are not limited to, the use of metal detectors and/or bag checks.

### **Prohibition against Smoking** ***(Board Policy 55)***

University Academy believes that smoking and the use of any tobacco product is detrimental to the health and well-being of staff and students. Therefore, University Academy strictly prohibits the use, sale, transfer, and possession of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes at school and at school-sponsored activities. University Academy is a smoke-free campus. This includes vehicles parked on the premises.

### **Recording of Meetings** ***(Board Policy 21.5)***

The Board prohibits the use of audio, video, or other recording equipment at meetings held pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as well as other meetings between school employees and parents/guardians. In accordance with Board policy and law, exceptions to this prohibition may

occur. Requests for such exceptions must be made within a reasonable period prior to the scheduled meetings. This prohibition does not apply to video recordings or meetings held within view of the school's security cameras.

University Academy Board Policy 21.5 prohibits video and audio recordings. The policy states:

“University Academy has established limits on the use of video and audio recording equipment (including but not limited to film, tape, digital, or by other mechanical or electronic means) to minimize disruption and to foster an educational and employment environment based on trust and integrity. University Academy prohibits any recording activity, even activity permitted under this policy, if the activity creates a disruption to the education process.”

### **Recording by Outside Entities**

Unless otherwise authorized by law, University Academy prohibits the use of video or audio recording equipment on school property or at school activities by any outside entity. This includes but is not limited to any individual, group, organization, or corporation other than the school's administration, officers, staff, or students of the University Academy, or individuals authorized to act on behalf of University Academy without permission from the Superintendent or designee. This prohibition shall not apply to the following:

1. Performances or activities to which the public is invited such as athletic competitions, concerts, and plays
2. Open meetings of the Board or committees appointed by, or at the direction of, the Board
3. Outside entities, including student-initiated groups, using, or renting District facilities in accordance with Board policies and established administrative procedures

### **Recording by School Personnel**

University Academy may make audio or visual recordings to provide security, maintain order, for professional staff development use, or for other purposes approved by the Superintendent as it relates to furthering the educational mission of the school. This may include the use of video equipment in school buildings and on transportation provided by University Academy. No placement of recording equipment will be in areas of the building where the occupant would have a reasonable expectation of privacy, such as restroom facilities or locker rooms. Recordings by or on behalf of University Academy personnel that include students will be considered student records and will be maintained in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other applicable laws. University Academy prohibits its personnel from the use of video or audio recording equipment on school property or at school activities except as provided by this policy.

### **Recording by Students**

University Academy prohibits the use of video or audio recording equipment on school property or at school activities by students except:

1. If required by a school-sponsored class or activity
2. At performances or activities to which the public is invited such as athletic competitions, concerts, and plays

3. At open meetings of the Board or committees appointed by, or at the direction of, the Board
4. As otherwise permitted by the Superintendent

### **School and Community Relations**

University Academy recognizes the positive effects of parent and family involvement in the education of their children and encourages strong parent/family involvement in working collaboratively with school staff.

### **Student Meals Community Eligibility Provision**

University Academy is participating in a Free Breakfast and Lunch Program for the current school year 2023-2024. This alternative is referred to as the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All students enrolled at this school may participate in the breakfast and lunch program at no charge. Household applications for free and reduced price meals will not be collected. Studies have shown that children who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing school meals to all children at no charge, we are hoping to create a better learning environment for our students. The school breakfast and lunch that we serve follows U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. The Free Breakfast and Lunch Program cannot succeed without your support. Please encourage your children to participate in the school meal programs. If your children attend University Academy, breakfast and lunch will be available to them at no charge.

#### **Non-discrimination Statement:**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### **School Bus Transportation**

First Student is the contract provider of bus transportation for University Academy students. Contact them directly with any concerns or problems at 816.254.5262. University Academy will assist parents/guardians in resolving any bus concerns with First Student. To obtain additional information regarding busing, contact the School Operations Manager, Kendall Johnson-Wiggins at 816-412-5994.

### School Closing Information

To check for school closings in case of severe weather or other emergencies, parents and guardians should check the school's website ([www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org)) and watch the four local primary Kansas City television stations\* to see if University Academy is listed. The Superintendent will determine whether to close school based on the best available information regarding weather and school bus travel. If it becomes necessary to dismiss classes during the day, University Academy will alert the local television and radio stations. Families will receive a phone call at the number on record if school is dismissed early due to inclement weather. Parents are responsible for providing the school administrative offices and their students' teachers with accurate, current telephone and email information. If parents are not home during the day, they should talk to their students in advance, so they have a plan of where to go in the event of an emergency dismissal.

\*Primary media stations include WDAF-TV 4, KCMO-TV 5, KMBC-TV 9, and KSHB-TV 41.

### School Hours

Doors Open	7:00 a.m.	Tardy Bell	7:30 a.m.	Doors Close @ 3:15 p.m.
Classes Begin	7:30 a.m. for LS and MS <b>US begins at 7:25 a.m.</b>	Dismissal	2:35 p.m.	

**No student should arrive at school prior to 7:00 a.m. or remain after dismissal time unless under the *direct* supervision of appropriate school staff.**

### Student Driving

Students may drive to school if they have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. All students parking in the school parking lot must obtain a University Academy Parking Permit from the Security Office. Parking permits are free; however, there is a \$5.00 replacement fee for lost or stolen permits. Permits are the property of University Academy and must be returned to the Security Department by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Student parking is available in Area 2. Student permits expire at the end of each school year. Parking violators will receive tickets and/or possible towing of the vehicle at the owner's expense. Driving and parking violations are Class II violations. Any vehicle parked on University Academy property is subject to be searched under these guidelines where violations of school policy are suspected.

### Student Lockers

School lockers, desks and other UA property are for the convenience of students and, as such, are subject to periodic inspection without notice. University Academy assigns a hall locker to every student in grades K-12. The student locker is the property of the school. Students must only use the locker assigned to them and always keep it locked (if applicable). Students are responsible for the contents of their locker. Therefore, students must not share lockers or disclose their combination to others.

If there are any problems with a locker or lock, students should notify their grade level administrator's office promptly so the problem can be resolved. Damage to lockers will be considered vandalism and will result in consequences (Class III violation). Student lockers always remain the property of University Academy and are subject to searches.

### **Student/Parent Complaint Process**

University Academy's goal is to have each school day run smoothly and without incident. However, there are occasions when parents and students do not agree with how Administration handles an issue and want to voice their displeasure to the Superintendent.

University Academy's policy is to review services when complaints or concerns arise. Please complete a Dispute Resolution form to have your concern/complaint officially addressed. Here is a link to the form <https://forms.gle/79WHjZRCY8xCHL4RA>

**Step 1:** Discuss your complaint/concern with the appropriate person/individual responsible for a school/ department/ program

**Step 2:** Appeal to the appropriate Principal or Central Administration Office

**Step 3:** Appeal to the Superintendent

Each school administrator has the knowledge, skills, abilities, and authority necessary to resolve issues at their respective levels. Any person not satisfied with an administrator's decision may complete a Dispute Resolution form, available in the Central Administration Office, and submit it within seven (7) calendar days of the school administrator's decision. The Central Administration Office will forward it to the Superintendent's Office. Parents/guardians can expect a response from the Superintendent within five (5) business days.

### **Student Records (As They Apply to Military Recruiters)**

University Academy may notify parents/guardians of secondary school students that it is required to release the student's name, address, and telephone listing to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request. Parents/guardians of eligible students may request that University Academy not release this information and the University Academy shall comply with the request. Record requests may take up to five (5) business days to release.

### **Student Rights**

University Academy understands the importance of providing each student with a school environment conducive to intellectual, emotional, and social growth through participation in a full range of educational programs and activities. Board and staff commitments ensure equal educational opportunities in course offerings, guidance and counseling, test procedures, extracurricular activities, discipline procedures, and student support services.

### **Telephones, Cell Phone Usage, Electronic Devices, and Recordings**

The use of cellphones in school poses increasing risks of school disruptions, bullying, criminal activity, and academic dishonesty. University Academy prohibits unauthorized student use of cell phones, headphones, digital cameras, and similar electronic devices during instructional time or in dressing areas and during extracurricular activities. In addition, students may not text,

photograph, or record video using their cell phones, unless with explicit teacher permission. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Students may not use their cell phones inside the building during the school day without expressed permission from a UA staff member between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and the end of the school day. Any cell phones seen, used, or heard (including text messages) during the day may be confiscated. Administration and/or staff may confiscate electronic items brought to school in a backpack, bag, or purse. Administration will only release confiscated item(s) to a parent/guardian or designee 18 years of age or older with photo ID. (If a student brings an item to school for approved instructional purposes, please contact your child's teacher to confirm that the "assignment" is to bring the item in question to school.) The school, in no way, assumes any responsibility for damaged, lost, or stolen electronic devices. Parents/guardians may make an appointment to pick up confiscated electronic devices by contacting Security between the hours of 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. with photo ID. Security will discard items not claimed after 90 days.

### **Textbooks**

At the beginning of each year, students receive textbooks. Students must return the textbooks at the end of the school year with only reasonable wear. When students receive a book, they are to inspect it carefully and promptly notify their teacher of any damage from previous use. If a textbook is damaged or lost, the student will be assessed a fine or charged the replacement cost of the book.

### **University Academy Code of Conduct** ***(Board Policy 16)***

University Academy believes in and fosters a safe and orderly environment for all students, staff, and visitors.

Therefore, the Board has established a Code of Conduct for parents, patrons, and visitors on school premises and at school activities. University Academy expects all parents, patrons, and visitors to conduct themselves in a manner reflective of a positive role model for children. University Academy does not permit inappropriate conduct, including but not limited to the following on the school's premises or at school-related activities:

1. Verbally aggressive behavior, (which includes but is not limited to), threats, intimidation, and profanity
2. Physical or violent behavior
3. Behavior that, in the judgment of school administrators, is disruptive to the educational environment
4. Conduct by visitors, contrary to these expectations may result in sanctions, which may limit a person's access to school activities and/or school premises.

Additionally, University Academy expects the apparel of parents, visitors, and patrons, to conform to reasonable standards of modesty, and as such, no excessive or inappropriate areas of skin or undergarments may be exposed. University Academy prohibits apparel or grooming which exposes lingerie or underwear. University Academy further prohibits apparel displaying messages that are gang-related, sexually explicit, vulgar, violent, that advocates drugs/alcohol, or other illegal activities.

**The Code of Conduct also applies to telephone *and* electronic communications.**

(See Trespass Notice section, page 39.)

University Academy considers persons failing to comply as trespassers who then become subject to arrest and prosecution. Trespass Notices apply to all school functions at University Academy.

**V. 2023-2024 PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

**Before/After School Program**

The YMCA partners with University Academy to provide childcare outside of school hours. The Before School Program runs from 6:30am to 7:00am. The After-School Program (Y-Club) is a resource for our UA families who need safe, quality care for their children from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. The program is available for students in Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade and operates on full school days. Y-Club is not available on school holidays, and official inclement weather days. Care is available on the first official school day, August 17, 2023 to the last official full school day, May 24, 2024. Y-Club provides snacks, homework assistance, tutoring, physical activities, and clubs. (Students may bring their own healthy snack.) Clubs vary each semester and year to year. Unauthorized electronic devices and toys are prohibited in Y-Club.

**Enrollment:** Please use the following link for registration.

<https://kansascityymca.org/programs/before-and-after-school/y-club-locations/university-academy>

You may enroll at any point before or during the school year; however, spots are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis and may fill quickly. If you wish to enroll after the school year starts, contact the YMCA After-School Program Coordinator to find out if there is availability for your child's grade. Enrollment is not complete until the Y-Club Program Coordinator receives payment.

**Fees:** There is currently a one-time registration fee of \$50 per family. The weekly tuition per child is \$50.00. There will be no fee adjustments for school closings. This fee is a fixed rate even if you do not plan on your student attending all five days a week. *The weekly fee applies regardless of the number of days the student attends Y-Club that week.* If you receive state benefits, you may qualify for child-care assistance. Please contact the local social services office to inquire about these benefits.

Parents/guardians may make payments online with the YMCA. All rates are subject to change with Board and YMCA approval. *Y-Club fees not paid may result in withdrawing students from the program.* Payments come out of parent accounts that are set on autopay every Sunday. If you pay by check those are due on Mondays for the week. If a parent has a balance on Thursday and hasn't paid they are notified that students can't attend until their balance is paid. Bus-riding privileges may be suspended pending payment of any outstanding account balances, meals, field trips, Y-Club, etc.

**Late Fees:** Y-Club ends at 5:30 p.m. each school day. If you do not pick up your child until after 5:35 pm, Y-Club will add to your tuition a late fee of \$1 for every 1 minute your child is in Y Club. Parents/guardians must pay this fee before the student(s) may return to Y Club.



The University Academy Student Code of Conduct, as stated in this Handbook, applies during Y-Club as well. Y-Club may drop students who experience behavior problems without advance notice. Y-Club instructors may, at their discretion, drop students who experience behavior problems while participating in their club(s).

Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

## **Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA) COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

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

<b>Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents</b>	
<b>General Information</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is a complaint under ESSA?</li> <li>2. Who may file a complaint?</li> <li>3. How can a complaint be filed?</li> </ol>	
<b>Complaints filed with LEA</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?</li> <li>5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?</li> </ol>	<b>Complaints filed with the Department</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department?</li> <li>7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?</li> <li>8. How are complaints related to equitable services to private school children handled differently?</li> </ol>
<b>Appeals</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated?</li> <li>10. What happens if the complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?</li> </ol>	

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

For these purposes, a complaint is an 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.

<sup>1</sup> *Programs include Title I, A, B, C, D, Title II, Title III, Title IV.A, Title V*

<sup>2</sup> In compliance with ESSA Title VIII-Part C. Sec. 8304(a)(3)(C)

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.

## **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. That time limit can be extended by the agreement of all parties.

The following activities will occur in the investigation:

- a. **Record.** A written record of the investigation will be kept.
- b. **Notification of LEA.** The LEA will be notified of the complaint within five days of the complaint being filed.
- c. **Resolution at LEA.** The LEA will then initiate its local complaint procedures to first resolve the complaint at the local level.
- d. **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 public.
- e. **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).
- f. **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.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mrs. Aisha Smith  
Lower School

Mrs. Levette Amerison  
Middle School

Mrs. Lashonette Kemp  
Upper School

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Our District is required to inform you of information that you, according to 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 or 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.

### **Foster Care (ESSA III)**

University Academy has designated the following person to serve as the District's Foster Care Point of Contact (POC):

Mrs. Brianne Phillips  
University Academy  
6801 Holmes Road  
Kansas City, MO 64131  
816-412-5900  
[phillipsb@universityacademy.org](mailto:phillipsb@universityacademy.org)

### **Missouri Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC)**

The following website can inform parents and parent organizations of the existence and purpose of the Missouri Parent Information Resource Center (PIRC) <http://www.missouri-pirc.org>.

### **Parent/Family Involvement in Education**

University Academy recognizes the positive impact of parents'/families' involvement in the education of their children. University Academy is committed to strong parent/family involvement in working collaboratively with the School's staff as knowledgeable partners in educating the School's students. We encourage parent participation at each of our three schools. Parents will also be invited to attend various events throughout the school year and we welcome input through surveys and assisting with our annual review of school plans.

### **Public 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. This includes 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. University Academy 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 a young child with a developmental delay.

University Academy assures that parents or guardians may review 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. Parents or guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent or 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 University Academy to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

University Academy 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 comply with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan is available for review in the Superintendent's Office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. This notice is available in native languages as appropriate.

### **Recess Policy (*Lower School*)**

Teachers are responsible for taking students to recess at the time allotted in their daily schedule. Teachers will use discretion when taking children outside in extremely cold or inclement weather. Teachers will hold recess indoors in the event of precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, etc.) and/or the temperature outside is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

If the temperature exceeds 32 degrees Fahrenheit, including the wind chill factor, students will participate in outdoor recess *without restriction*.

Parents need to make sure children are dressed for the temperature of the day, as all students must attend recess unless excused by a physician or the school nurse. In that case, the student will go to another classroom.

The Lower School principal or designee of each school will be responsible for daily monitoring of the Temperature Index information provided by local authorities.

- **Indoor Recess** will be held when the temperature or heat index is above 95 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Indoor Recess** will be held when the temperature or wind chill is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Indoor Recess** will be held if heavy precipitation is occurring or severe weather warnings are issued.

### **Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect**

University Academy believes that school staff members are in a unique position to assist children, families, and the community in dealing with the issue of child abuse and neglect. In addition, state law requires school employees to report instances of suspected child abuse when the employee has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been or is likely to be suffering abuse or neglect to the Missouri Division of Family Services.

The definition of *child abuse* is any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means. The definition of *neglect* is failure to provide the proper or necessary support, education, nutrition, or medical, surgical, or other care necessary for the child's well-being.

Any University Academy employee who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a student's home conditions, or circumstances are subjecting them to abuse or neglect, shall immediately report such to the Children's Division.

### **SchoolPay**

SchoolPay is an easy-to-use, self-service application that handles all parent, community, and staff payments. Parents/guardians can now make payments online or use their mobile devices. Schools will not be accepting cash payments. Parents and guardians are expected to pay student fees, field trip fees, etc., through this system. Log in to <http://schoolpay.com> and create an account. (You will need your child's PowerSchool ID number to create your account.) You can pay with your debit/credit card. You will be able to monitor all activity as it pertains to your student's account.

### **Title I**

In existence since 1965, Title I is the largest single, continuously and federally funded education program. Its purpose is to provide supplementary support in reading and math. Lower School Title I teachers focus on reading improvement, but the program is school-wide. Students spend approximately 30 minutes daily, in small groups of three to four students. Title I teachers confer with classroom teachers regarding students' progress and needs.

The curriculum involves comprehension skills, strong emphasis on phonics, coordinated with classroom teacher objectives, and aligns with the Common Core. Grade-specific Leveled Literacy Intervention, developed by reading specialists for specific grades, involves parent involvement, nightly reading, and homework. Assessments using Individual Reading Assessments, Scholastic Reading Inventories, Orton-Gillingham Assessment, word lists, standardized tests, and general observations can monitor a student's needs and growth.

The selection of students in the Title I reading program is based on:

- Running records
- Standardized test scores
- Lexile scores
- Teacher recommendation

The overall goal is to help students read at grade level and foster the love of reading. The expectation for parents/guardians is that they realize they are part of the team and provide support at home by reading aloud with their child, plan time so their child can read to themselves at home or aloud with an adult; show interest in what happens at school, and devote time to overseeing and helping with homework. Parent-Teacher Conferences are a great time to discover the reading progress of your student. Annual reading events are held where parents/ guardians may participate ("Bingo for Books" and the Annual Scholastic Book Fair).

## VI. 2032-2024 PROMOTION STANDARDS / RETENTION POLICY

The purpose of promotion and retention of students is to provide maximum consideration for the long-range welfare of the student and to provide an opportunity for each student to progress through school according to his/her own needs and abilities.

Students advance annually from one grade level to another by demonstrating satisfactory academic achievement. Retention is possible if a student's standards of academic achievement or social, emotional, mental, or physical development will not allow satisfactory progress in the next higher grade. University Academy does not offer social promotion. At every grade level, there are specific requirements for promotion to the next grade.

Parents/guardians who wish to appeal the decision of retention must first contact the Principal. If parents/guardians do not accept the decision at the school level, they may submit a written appeal to the Superintendent/designee within two (2) weeks after the close of school.

Decisions on whether to promote, accelerate or retain a student with disabilities will be made in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and as required by other applicable law.

### Lower School Promotion Standards

- Students must pass all core classes. (Communication Arts and Math)
- *For 5<sup>th</sup> grade students only*, students **must pass all core classes** (Communication Arts, Math, and Science) with an **average of 70% or higher of mastered standards**.
- Students **must read and comprehend at or above grade level** by the end of the academic year as measured by the Fountas & Pinnell Running Record, Orton-Gillingham Assessment, and/or Sight word expectations.
- Students must receive recommendation for promotion by their grade level team and principal, based on satisfactory classroom performance throughout the current academic school year. Note: Administration must approve the final decision
- Testing data, also considered for promotion, will be **Study Island Benchmark scores in ELA and Math**. Students should score **60% or higher on BM #3 or BM#4**.
- Students must have **at least 95% attendance**.
- Administration may substitute specific criteria for promotion in place of grades or attendance based on additional or alternative learning experiences when deemed in the best interest of the student.
- Students must receive recommendation for promotion from their grade classroom teacher/team and principal, based on satisfactory classroom performance throughout the current academic school year. **\*Administration must approve the final decision.**



### **Middle School Promotion Standards**

- **Students must pass ALL Core Classes with a 2 or higher. TWO of the FOUR core classes must be passed with a 3 or higher (Communication Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies);**
- **Students MUST complete ALL Assessment Cycles**
- Students must have 95% attendance
- Students must have an N or above in Citizenship in all classes
- Students should pass all electives (P or 3 and higher)
- Testing data, also considered for promotion, will be Benchmark scores and MAP scores. Students should score 60% or higher on BM#4 or the Summer School EOC Test or should score Proficient or Advanced on the State MAP Tests in ELA, Math and Science.
- Administration may substitute specific criteria for promotion in place of grades or attendance based on additional or alternative learning experiences when deemed in the best interest of the student.
- Students must receive recommendation for promotion from their grade level team and principal, based on satisfactory classroom performance throughout the current academic school year. This includes not being on the ‘U List’ (ineligible) more than six (6) times in a semester. Administration must approve all team decisions.

### **Upper School Promotion Standards**

University Academy classifies students not just by the number of semesters they have attended but by the number of credits they have earned.

Parents and students should know this above all else: when it comes to high school—what we call the “Upper School”—the student’s progress is based on the student working hard and passing his or her classes. The good news is that retention is not an option. However, University Academy classifies students according to the number of credits he or she has earned while enrolled. A student will not become a sophomore because they have been here for two years. Instead, the number of credits they have earned determines their classification—in this case 6.5.

Following is the most important information to keep in mind:

9 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	First two semesters of high school	0.0 – 6.5
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Three or four semesters of high school	6.5 – 13.0
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Five or six semesters of high school	13.0 – 19.5
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	Seven or more semesters of high school	19.5 – 26.0

*The total credits required to graduate is 26. It is important to note that University Academy only promotes students every fall following the summer. In addition to earning the designated number of credits, students MUST also pass all core classes in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies to move on to the next grade.*

## **VII. 2023-2024 SAFETY AND SECURITY**

We value our relationships with University Academy families. However, Security may ask all persons who do not obtain prior authorization and/or visitors, who create distractions to the school environment while on the premises, to leave. University Academy considers persons failing to comply as trespassers, who are subject to arrest and prosecution. Trespass Notice apply

to all school functions at University Academy including promotion and graduation ceremonies (See Trespass Notice below.). Any vehicle parked on University Academy property is subject to search under these guidelines where a violation of school policy is suspected.

University Academy has joined several other school Districts in the Kansas City Metro areas in using a visitor management system to enhance campus safety of students and staff, allowing us to track visitors, contractors, and volunteers in the building. This will provide us with a safer environment for students and staff. Upon entering the building, visitors must present a valid, state-issued photo identification card or driver's license. Modifications may occur for persons visiting the school without the required form of identification. The system scans the identification card (it only takes a minute or two). While the system only retrieves the visitor's name, date of birth, and photo, the system only searches for registered sexual offenders. Once the visitor's name clears the national database, the system will print a visitor's badge that includes the visitor's name, photo, date, time, and destination. Upon completion of the visit, visitors are to return the badge to the Central Administration Office to log out of the system. If you are interested in learning more about the visitor management system, please visit [www.raptortech.com](http://www.raptortech.com) or contact school security.

### **Trespass Notice**

A Trespass Notice is a formal verbal or written order for people school personnel view as disruptive or noncompliant with the school's procedures. The issuance of a Trespass Notice is a last resort for people who are not willing to resolve conflict without verbal or physical aggression and for people who have multiple violations of school policy. A Trespass Notice prohibits people from entering the building, coming onto the parking lots (private property), athletic field, and school buses governed by University Academy. Violation of a Trespass Notice will result in an additional 30-calendar day extension. Violation of a Trespass Notice will result in arrest and prosecution according to the law. The Superintendent reserves the right to modify a Trespass Notice. University Academy reviews all Trespass Notices annually in July.

### **Appeal Process**

Parents wishing to appeal a Trespass Notice must submit, in writing, a request to the Chief Operating Officer, Stacy Graff, no later than 10 days from the Trespass Notice being implemented. The email address is [graffs@universityacademy.org](mailto:graffs@universityacademy.org). The COO or their representative will contact the parent to discuss the Trespass Notice and will file a written decision via email within 2 business days of receipt of the appeal.

### **Class I Violations**

Behavior that, in the judgment of school administrators, is disruptive to the educational environment, including but not limited to disturbing the peace, profanity, failure to maintain social distancing. More than one (1) occurrence may result in more severe consequences.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence</b>
Restorative Justice Meeting
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence</b>
Written Warning
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Occurrence</b>
Trespass Hearing and/or a 60-Day Trespass Notice Issued

### **Class II Violations**

Being in unauthorized areas; being noncompliant with instructions and/or directions from staff, including but not limited to noncompliance with traffic duty staff in the parking lots. More than one (1) occurrence may result in more severe consequences.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence</b>
Restorative Justice Meeting
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence</b>
Written Warning
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Occurrence</b>
90-Day Trespass Notice Issued
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Occurrence</b>
Trespass Hearing and/or a 180-Day Trespass Notice Issued

### **Class III Violations**

Verbally aggressive behavior, which includes but is not limited to, threats, harassment, intimidation, profanity, phone, e-mail, and/or other forms or electronic communication, and unauthorized contact with students. More than one (1) occurrence may result in more severe consequences.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence</b>
Trespass Hearing and/or a 180-Day Trespass Notice Issued

### **Class IV Violations**

Physical and/or violent behavior, including but not limited to, assault, property damage, trespass on school bus loading and unloading zone, chronic misconduct, and Safe Schools Act Violations.

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence</b>
Trespass Hearing and/or an Indefinite Trespass Notice Issued

School lockers and desks are the property of University Academy and are provided for the convenience of students, and as such, are subject to periodic inspection without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The lockers and desks may be searched by school administrators or staff who have reasonable suspicion that the locker(s) or desk(s) contain drugs, alcohol, material of a disruptive nature, stolen properties, weapons, items posing a danger to the safety of students or school employees, or evidence of a violation of school policy. In addition, University Academy has authorization to use trained dogs to sniff lockers or other school property to assist in the detection of the presence of drugs, explosives, and other contraband.

University Academy reserves the right to perform random safety screenings, including but not limited to, student lockers, and bag/purse checks. On reasonable suspicion of a violation of University Academy rules, policy or state law, students or student property is subject to a search. Reasonable suspicion must be the basis for facts known to the administration, credible information provided, or reasonable inference drawn from such facts or information. The District

respects the privacy and dignity of students. School officials perform searches in the presence of adult witnesses if such witnesses are available. A school employee may ask students to empty pockets, remove jackets, coats, shoes, and other articles of exterior clothing for examination if reasonable under the circumstances. No employee shall perform a strip search of any student.

If the search produces a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, weapons, stolen goods, or evidence of a crime, in any case involving a violation of law, when a student refuses to allow a search, or where school officials cannot safely conduct the search, University Academy may contact law enforcement officials and/or parents. School officials may appropriately discipline a student who refuses to submit to a search.

Administration also reserves the right to search any area that could conceal an item or information that University Academy bans from school (i.e. drugs, weapons, stolen items, cell phones that are on, etc.).

University Academy schedules drills to practice safe, speedy, and calm evacuations of the building in case of an emergency. It is the expectation of anyone in the building at the time of an emergency to follow the building emergency procedures. If local stations announce a tornado or other severe storm alert, students will remain in their safe locations inside the building. In the event of a severe weather emergency, please do not come to the school to pick up your student(s). Students are in a safe location within the school and remain there until the Weather Bureau announces the lifting of the warning (“all clear”) through local media outlets.

University Academy has staff that is Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certified to meet the state requirements on the Policy of Seclusion and Restraint (RSMo.160.263). The purpose of this policy is to promote safety and prevent harm to all students, school personnel, and visitors in the University Academy.

University Academy utilizes an anonymous reporting procedure. Students and/or parents may report bullying, violence, or submit crime prevention tips on our website under the “Security” tab.

University Academy Security encourages students, parents and visitors to contact the Safety Hotline at 816.412.WARN (9276) or at <http://www.tips@universityacademy.org>.

## **VIII. 2023-24 SCHOOL MEALS INFORMATION**

### **School Breakfast and Lunch**

University Academy participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. UA is participating in this Free Breakfast and Lunch Program for the current school year 2023-24. Breakfast and lunch will be available to ALL students at no charge. Household applications for free and reduced price meals will not be collected.

Studies have shown that children who are not hungry perform better in school. By providing school meals to all children at no charge, we are hoping to create a better learning environment for our students.

The school breakfast and lunch that we serve follow U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines for healthy school meals. The School Breakfast and Lunch Programs cannot succeed without your support. Please encourage your children to participate in the school meal programs. Meals will be served to all students at no charge regardless of the eligibility status.

Students who decide to bring their meals from home may purchase milk at lunch/breakfast for (\$0.50) or juice at breakfast for (\$0.40) from the cafeteria if they have money in the meal account. To add money to your students meal account please do so in schoolpay which is found on the schools website.

**University Academy does not make accommodations for alternate meals due to religious preference.** Monthly menus are available on the school's website to assist families in making decisions regarding students' daily meal selections. Students with food allergies must provide medical documentation from the student's physician before the student receives an accommodation. The nurse will maintain that information.

**Sharing of food is strictly prohibited.**

**Students are not allowed to use food delivery services such as pizza delivery, Door Dash, Uber Eats, etc. If you need to bring food for your student, please make sure your student knows when to pick it up from the main office (during their specific lunch time) so class is not disrupted.**

### **The Forum (cafeteria) Procedures**

During breakfast and lunch, students must adhere to following Forum rules:

- Obey the directions of cafeteria supervisors and school staff.
- Form orderly, single-file lines while waiting to receive a tray. Do not break into line or save places for others.
- All food or drink is to remain in the Forum.
- Students may visit quietly with others seated at their table, but must not shout to students at other tables or roam from table to table.
- DO NOT THROW TRAYS IN THE TRASH!
- Leave tables in a clean, orderly fashion upon completion of each meal. Trays are to be returned to designated areas and paper/trash picked up and discarded.
- Students should not leave the cafeteria without permission from the staff assigned to cafeteria duty.

Students may not use staff vending machines or microwave ovens *at any time*.

## IX. 2023-2024 STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

### Student Health Services

University Academy believes that to provide for the safety and well-being of its students, it is necessary to implement and maintain a school-wide student health services program.

University Academy will be responsible for providing first aid or emergency treatment for students in cases of sudden illness or injury. Where necessary, and with notice to the parent/guardian, emergency health services will be secured. The parent/guardian is responsible for their child's medical treatment.

University Academy promotes healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning environment. The Board supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices.

Schools contribute to the basic health status of children by facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. Improved health optimizes student performance potential. The goals of University Academy's wellness policy are as follows:

1. Provide a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors
2. Support and promote proper dietary habits that contribute to students' health status and academic performance
3. Provide more opportunities for students to engage in physical activity
4. The school is committed to improve academic performance

University Academy staffs professionally licensed nurses to provide for the safety and well-being of its students. They will be responsible for providing first aid, illness and disease assessment, medical/dental referrals, medication administration, appropriate screenings, and more. The school nurses cannot assume the responsibility for any emergency treatment beyond first aid. School policy prohibits the nurses from diagnosing students and there is no expectation that they will treat an illness or injury that occurred away from school.

### Assistive Devices

We understand that there may be times when our students may require assistance from a medical assistive device (*such as, but not limited to, wheelchairs, crutches, etc.*). During that time, students must present signed medical orders by the student's physician to the Nursing Office for review. Upon review, the nursing staff will notify appropriate teachers and staff of any limitations and/or restrictions. Access to the elevator will be granted only as needed. **PLEASE NOTE: When an assistive device is required, the student's parent/guardian must provide it.** University Academy will not provide any medical assistive devices for student's personal use at any time.

### **Classroom Snacks**

If your student's teacher allows snacks in the classroom from home, the snacks cannot contain any peanuts, tree nuts, or peanut butter. Students will not consume any snack containing peanuts, tree nuts or peanut butter and will be discarded. For safety reasons, University Academy will not send students home with snacks containing peanuts, tree nuts or peanut butter on the bus due to the numerous nut allergies amongst our students.

### **Clothing**

The school nurse does not provide extra clothing for students *for any reason*. ALL students are encouraged to bring extra clothing to keep in their lockers. Should a student need a change of clothing during the school day, the school will contact a parent or guardian. All soiled clothing must go home with the student. University Academy does not provide laundry services.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

State statute gives public school districts the authority to exclude students who have a contagious disease such as COVID-19 or who are liable to transmit the disease after having been exposed to it. In addition, the local health department has the authority to exclude students from school and may order students and others to isolate or quarantine.

### **Returning to School after Exclusion for COVID-19 Symptoms and Risks**

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC.

### **Self-Quarantine**

If a student or employee has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 symptoms, diagnosed with COVID-19, or has recently traveled from somewhere considered to be a "hot spot" by the CDC, the school may exclude the student or employee from the school building and recommend that they self-quarantine for 5 calendar days.

### **Food Allergies**

Please discuss any concerns regarding food allergies directly with the school nurses. If you feel that your student requires accommodations in the cafeteria for any reason, you will be required to provide documentation from your student's physician confirming the food allergy. Once the school nurses receive the documentation, they will provide the documentation to the Food Services Manager to accommodate your student. All snacks must be store bought.

### **Immunizations**

All students attending school must be compliant with state programs mandating immunization against specific diseases. Failure to comply with school immunization requirements will result in exclusion from school until proof of compliance in the student's file. It is important for all families to work with the school nurse to ensure all medical records are current. All absences related to incomplete immunization records are unexcused. **After five (5) days of consecutive**

**unexcused absences, your student will be withdrawn from University Academy and placed back on the waiting list.**

All students with a medical exemption, religious exemption or in-progress exemption for their immunizations will be required to provide the school with the actual exemption card.

(Parents/guardians may pick up exemption cards at the City of Kansas City Health Department and most doctors' offices.) **Copies of exemption cards are not acceptable.**

Any student considered homeless will have a 30-day grace period to provide immunization records to the school. During that time, if a record of past immunizations cannot be located and/or provided to the school:

- The student will be required to restart the state-required immunizations.
- If a physician feels that re-immunization is not necessary, the physician may provide the student with a medical exemption card stating the reason for the exemption.

After 30 days, failure to comply with the immunization requirements will result in exclusion from school until the parent/guardian provides documentation.

The Superintendent or his / her designee shall institute procedures for the maintenance of health records, which are to show the immunization status of every student enrolled or attending University Academy, and for the completion of all necessary reports in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Department of Social Services-Missouri Division of Health.

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC STATE-MANDATED REQUIREMENTS:**

- Students starting **8<sup>th</sup> grade** are required to have received both T-dap and MCV immunizations.
- Students starting **12<sup>th</sup> grade** are required to have received a second dose of an MCV immunization.

**Student Illness (General)**

It is particularly important that we attempt to control the spread of communicable disease as much as possible. A student should not attend school and will be sent home with any of the following:

- **fever (100.4° or more)**
- **vomiting**
- **diarrhea**
- **constant coughing, or**
- **any possible communicable disease (skin rashes, redness/drainage of eyes, swollen glands, etc.)**



He / she MUST stay home until symptoms have subsided for no less than **24** hours. Appropriate staff will escort all students with any of the symptoms above and isolate them from healthy students. Before you send your student back to school, please refer to the following guidelines:

- **Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication**
- All vomiting and/or diarrhea must have completely stopped for no less than **24** hours
- Must be on antibiotics for 24 hours (a doctor's note will be required) Free from continuous coughing, rash, drainage from eyes, or swollen glands
- A physician's note stating your student may return to school before the guidelines above

When your student comes to the Nursing Office due to an injury or illness, the Nurse will notify the parent/guardian providing the information on the Health Office Visit form, via email or a phone call. If the Nurse is unable to reach the parent/ guardian, she will attempt to notify the Emergency Contact. In case of an emergency, the Nurse will call emergency health services. The parent/guardian is ultimately responsible for their child's medical treatment.

The expectation is that a parent/guardian or other authorized adult will pick up the student as soon as possible. When you receive the call, if you anticipate you may need more than one (1) hour to arrive at school, please inform the nurses at that time. Parents/guardians who are not able to pick up their student from school must arrange for another authorized adult to pick up the student. Students who are ill (or soiled) cannot and will not be sent home on the bus.

### **Medications**

UA recognizes that some students may require medication during the school day to enable them to remain in school and participate in their education. University Academy requires that families dispense both temporary and maintenance **once or twice-daily** medications outside of school hours. Medications that are to be administered more than twice daily may be administered during school hours, but only when accompanied by physician's orders and approved by the nursing department. The district provides **no medications, including over the counter and cough drops**. Only trained, designated school personnel may administer medications in the school and on field trips.

The District is not legally obligated to administer medication to students unless specifically included in a Section 504 plan or an individualized healthcare plan (IHP). University Academy encourages parents/guardians to provide medical documentation or other relevant information regarding the medications their students need while at school. The district retains the right to reject requests for administering medications unless required to do so by law.

Parents and students must adhere to the following procedures for proper administration while at school:

1. **All medications MUST be delivered to the Nurse's Office by a parent or legal guardian. NO EXCEPTIONS.** Students may not transport any type of medication on the school bus. It is the parent's responsibility to maintain an adequate supply of medication at the school for the duration of the student's dosage requirement. The nursing office will alert the parent/guardian when the medication is getting low or about to expire.

2. All prescription medications must have a physician's order or the pharmacy label containing the following information:

- Student name
- Medication name
- Dosage
- Time medication is to be given
- Instructions for administration of the medicine

**University Academy does not accept parent requests to administer medication(s) at different times without corresponding doctors' orders.**

\*It may be a good idea to ask your pharmacist to put your prescription in two separate containers, one for school, and one for home. If your child needs half a tablet, please break the tablet before the medication comes to school; or, if the tablet requires crushing, please send a pill crusher to the school.

3. All non-prescription medications, including over the counter (OTC) drugs, must be in their original container, with the student's name affixed to the label and accompanied by written and signed instructions from the parent/guardian. School policy does not allow the school nurse to accept medications in Ziploc™ or plastic sandwich bags; nor can he / she accept telephone instructions. All instructions for non-prescription medications must include:

- Student name
- Medication name
- Dosage
- The time medication is to be given
- Instructions for administration of the medicine

**Any non-prescription medication instructions, which differ from the manufacturer's recommended dosage, must have a physician's prescription.**

4. "As needed or emergency" prescription medications that have been provided to the Nursing Office with appropriate paperwork completed, may be used for students participating in Y-Club on an as-needed basis only. Trained Y-Club staff will administer medication, exclusive of routine/scheduled medications.
5. A "Consent to Administer Medication" form signed by the parent/guardian (which must be updated yearly) for prescription and over-the-counter medications (available only in the school nursing office) must be filled out. Medication brought to the

- Nurse's Office by a student will not be administered until a parent/guardian comes to the school to complete the appropriate consent form(s). Phone consent by a parent/guardian is not acceptable.
6. A count of certain medications in tablet form, such as: stimulants, sedatives, barbiturates (anticonvulsant), narcotic analgesics, and psychotropic drugs must occur when brought to the school.
  7. It is the student's responsibility to come to the Nurse's Office for administration of their medication(s). Nurses will not call students out of their classroom to take medication.
  8. Any student in grades 6-12, deemed developmentally & behaviorally responsible, with written permission from the physician & parent, and with final approval from the school nurse, can carry and self-administer asthma inhalers and EpiPens. The required paperwork is available in the Nursing office.
  9. School nurses will not administer the first dose of any medication to any student. Parents and guardians should administer the first dose of any new medication to their student(s) on a non-school day to be present to observe any possible side effects. It is not the responsibility of any University Academy employee to observe and/or report any side effects of any medication given for the first time.
  10. When your child participates in field trips, their teacher carries the student's medication(s) in its original container; in case it should be required.
  11. At the end of the school year, parents/guardians must pick up ALL medications within five (5) days of the last day of school. If your student will be attending Summer School, parents/guardians must pick up the medication prior to the last day of Summer School. All medication not picked up will be disposed of accordingly on the sixth day (6) following the last day of school/summer school.

### **Specific Health Conditions**

Parents/guardians must speak directly with school nurses regarding their child's specific health condition and are responsible for providing any necessary medical records to the Nursing Office.

Students may attend school based on exclusion-specific orders that have the signature of a licensed medical provider. Students returning to school after injury, including concussions or surgeries with casts, crutches, or slings should present a signed physician release to return to school along with any modifications or accommodations that need to be made.

## **X. 2023-2024 STUDENT INFORMATION**

### **Athletic Events**

When students stay after school for athletic events, the gate opens 30 minutes prior to the event. That is the only time students may re-enter the building. Students/parents should arrange for their student(s) to return to the school for such events. Unsupervised students not accompanied by an adult staff member or parent must leave the campus entirely and return for the specific event. Only students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or above may stay after school for an athletic event without a parent or adult over the age of 18 years of age accompanying them.

## **Attendance and Tardy Protocol for *ALL* students**

*(In-person and remote/virtual students)*

University Academy expects that all students will attend school regularly and make punctuality a priority. **This applies to all students whether they attend in-person or virtually.** Parents/legal guardians should call the school if the student must be absent. Excessive absences may result in loss of academic credit, retention, formal warning from Court, referral to Children's Division and/or possible withdrawal from University Academy. University Academy will consider truant any student who is absent without parental notification. In the event of a period of absence of three (3) or more consecutive days, students returning to school shall provide a written explanation from a health care provider. If parents/legal guardians fail to call the school prior to the student being absent or the student fails to provide a written and signed explanation from a parent or legal guardian for an absence upon returning to school, the absences are considered unexcused and will be recorded as such. **Additionally, all students, in grades K-11, must have a 95% average daily attendance rate for consideration of promotion to the next grade. Students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade must have a 96% average daily attendance rate in order to graduate from University Academy.**

All school virtual/remote students must have at least a 95% attendance or above for live lessons and inform their school of any absences in a timely manner by checking PowerSchool weekly and calling the School's Attendance line. Parents/guardians should also monitor student progress through Schoology and PowerSchool.

Parents/Guardians should follow these guidelines with regard to attendance:

- Notify the school between 7:00 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. the morning of the absence by calling the appropriate Student Absence Line. A call to the absence line does not imply or excuse the absence. NOTE: If you have children in several schools, you will need to call each number to report each child's absence.

### **Student Attendance Lines:**

Lower School (K-5<sup>th</sup>): 412-5905

Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>): 412-5904

Upper School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>): 412-5903

### **Student Attendance Email:**

Lower School (K-5<sup>th</sup>): LowerAttend@universityacademy.org

Middle School (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>): MiddleAttend@universityacademy.org

Upper School (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>): UpperAttend@universityacademy.org

- Provide a written note giving the student's name, date, and reason for absence when the student returns, if the parent has not previously notified the school; and
- Please schedule doctor, dental, and other appointments outside of school hours to ensure your child's regular attendance.

The following definitions will be used to implement University Academy's attendance policy.

Definitions:

**Excused absence and tardy** – An absence from class resulting from an illness or other health related concern, or other unforeseen circumstances that are verified by a parent/guardian with proper documentation. With documentation, the school will consider the following excused absences/late arrivals/departures:

- Illness and/or hospitalization, parent/guardian verified
- Medically documented illness (documentation from doctor required after 3 consecutive days of absence or 10 or more total days of absence)
- Documented dental, mental health, or medical appointment
- Religious observance
- School-related activities in which the student is participating
- Death of immediate family member (mother, father, sibling, grandparent)
- College visit, preapproved (pertaining only to Upper School students)
- Mandatory court date
- Other circumstances with prior approval of administrator

**Unexcused absence/tardy** – An absence from class that does not meet the requirements of an excused absence regardless of notification from parent. Students in these circumstances may be considered truant even if parent is aware of the absence. The following will be considered unexcused absences/late arrivals:

- Oversleeping
- Missing the bus
- No ride to school
- Parent drop off line
- Celebration of a birthday
- Personal business
- Needed at home
- School-related activities in which the student is NOT participating
- Car trouble
- Take Your Child to Work Day

**Family Vacations** – UA strongly discourages parents from scheduling vacations during school days. However, when children must be absent due to a family vacation or trip, a letter of request must be written in advance to the principal to obtain an excused absence from school. A written response will be given to the parent with a recommendation as to whether the student can afford the loss of instructional time, as well as the conditions required to make up the work.

**Attendance** – A student is in attendance if he/she is physically present in class, participating in a school-related activity, receiving homebound services, or receiving services at another location pursuant to law or by arrangement of University Academy.

Nothing in this policy prohibits an IEP or 504 team from providing accommodations pertaining to attendance, late arrivals, and/or tardies, to a student with a disability in accordance with state and federal law.

### **Attendance Policy**

Parents/guardians will receive official notification of attendance at the **5, 10 and 15-week mark in each semester**. The purpose of this notice is to inform parents of their child's attendance as it relates to the expectation of 95% attendance. This rate of attendance is the amount of time the student spends in school. Absences, late arrivals, and early departures will negatively impact a student's daily attendance percentage. A student will be dropped from University Academy after 5 consecutive unexcused absences.

- **95% or higher** – No notification (parent may call to request percentage at any time)
- **90% - 94.99%** - Letter sent to parents/guardians
- **Anything below 89.99%** - Referral to SART Team – Residency will be reviewed and referrals may be made to Children's Division and/or Truancy Court. (Failure to respond to and/or meet with the SART team may result in your student not being eligible to attend field trips, school day and evening programs/celebrations, and/or other consequences deemed appropriate.)

### **Student Drop-Off /Arrival**

Parents are only allowed to drop off K-8 students in the Main Drive or the South Lot after 7:00 a.m. Students should not be dropped off prior to 7:00 a.m. as we don't have supervision available. Parents who drop students off early will be notified of the infraction by Security and fines will be assessed. We also reserve the right to administer fines for K-8 students who are dropped off on 68th street and not walked up to school by a parent. Parents are welcome to park in Research Medical's lot and walk their child across 68th street to the Main Drive no earlier than 7:00 a.m. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will subject parents to the following fines.

- **First Offense:** Warning
- **Second Offense:** Assessment of Early Drop of Fee of \$10 for every 5 minutes for EACH student.
- **Third Offense:** REQUIRED meeting with Coordinator of Security and Chief Operating Officer prior to your student returning to school.
- **Fourth Offense:** Notice of No Trespass may be issued at the discretion of the Coordinator of Security. A No Trespass will prohibit you from coming on UA's campus and would require that you park in Research Medical and walk your student across 68th street for arrival for up to one calendar year. This would also keep you from coming on campus to pick up your student from school. Someone else would be needed to transport/pick up your student to/from school.

The safety of our students is our top priority. We ask for your help in making sure we can provide the safest possible environment for your student by asking all parents to follow these guidelines!

Students arriving at school at 7:30 a.m. or later will be marked tardy. Please note that Middle and Upper School students **MUST BE IN CLASS** at 7:30 a.m. Late arrivals are viewed per semester; therefore, each student's late arrival/tardy count will reset at the start of a new semester. University Academy will adhere to the following steps with regard to excessive late arrivals (does not apply to medically-documented tardies/departures):

- Three (3) unexcused late arrivals/early departures– automated phone call to parents/guardians;
- Six (6) unexcused late arrivals/early departures – phone call to parents/guardians from counselor;
- Twelve (12+) unexcused late arrivals/early departures – referral for SART (Student Attendance Review Team) meeting with school administration– Residency will be reviewed at this time and/or possible referral to Children’s Division and/or Truancy Court.

**Middle and Upper School Periods 1-7 Tardy Policy:**

<b># of Tardies Accumulated</b>	<b>Teacher Action</b>	<b>Possible Consequence</b>
1-3	Teacher issues a warning	Student remains in class
4	Student is written up	2 hours in Recovery Room
5-8	Student is written up	4 hours in Recovery Room
9-12	Student is written up	1 Full day of Recovery Room
13 or more	PowerSchool List (AP)	Any action deemed necessary to provide behavioral change up to and including OSS.

All excessive tardies (13 or more in one class period) will result in one of the following: a letter being sent home, parent conference with the Principal, detention, Saturday School assignments, Citation from KCPD, and/or a District-level hearing.

**Truancy and Educational Neglect Policy**

University Academy believes that students’ regular, full-time attendance at school is important to academic success. The Board directs that problems with attendance on the part of any student be investigated and acted upon promptly.

Truancy is defined as deliberate absence from school on the part of the pupil with or without the knowledge of the parent/guardian and for which no justifiable excuse is given. When a pattern of truancy becomes evident, University Academy will investigate and take such action as circumstances dictate.

Excessive absences are a violation of the Compulsory School Attendance Ordinance (Sec. 50-243). Parents/guardians with students that have excessive absences may be issued a citation from the Kansas City Police Department requiring their appearance in court.

Section 210.115 R.S.Mo. mandates reporting to the Children’s Division when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a student’s nonattendance is due to the educational neglect of the parent/guardian.

Any University Academy employee who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a student is being subjected to home conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in truancy shall immediately make a report to the Children’s Division.

### **Early Student Pick-ups**

Staff members will not excuse a student from school before the end of the school day without a request from that student's parent/guardian. Parents must sign out their student(s) in the Central Administration Office. Please refer to the Tardy Policy for early pickup information. **All students leaving early need to be signed out by 2:00pm. Students will not be called out to leave between 2:00pm and 2:35pm.**

### **End of the School Day Parent Pick-Up Procedure**

University Academy recognizes that parents may sometimes depend on their responsible older students to care for younger students for short periods of time, which may include the end of the school day. For parents/guardians who depend on older, responsible UA siblings to pick up their younger siblings from the "Parent Pick Up Area," a signed authorization must be on file in the appropriate school office.

In an effort to prevent traffic congestion, students may not wait or be dropped off or picked up at the blue cones in the Fire Lane.

All students should be off school grounds by 3:10 p.m. Listed below are the consequences for picking up your student at the end of the day after 3:10 p.m.

- **First Offense:** Warning
- **Second Offense:** Assessment of Late Pick Up Fee of \$10 for every 5 minutes for EACH student.
- **Third Offense:** REQUIRED meeting with Coordinator of Security and Chief Operating Officer prior to your student returning to school.
- **Fourth Offense:** Notice of No Trespass may be issued at the discretion of the Coordinator of Security. A No Trespass will prohibit you from coming on UA's campus and would require that you park in Research Medical and walk your student across 68th street for arrival for up to one calendar year. This would also keep you from coming on campus to pick up your student from school. Someone else would be needed to transport/pick up your student to/from school.

The safety of our students is our top priority. We ask for your help in making sure we can provide the safest possible environment for your student by asking all parents to follow these guidelines!

Bus—Kindergarten students returned to the school because no one was at the bus stop to meet them will be assessed the same fees as shown above.

Y- Club —Y-Club fees not paid may result in withdrawing the student from the program.

Additional offenses may result in conferences with the school social worker and/or the Division of Social Services.

### **Lost and Found**

Students are responsible for their personal belongings. Any student who finds an item that does not belong to them should turn it into the Security Office immediately. Students may claim their



lost article(s) in the office before or after school. University Academy is not responsible for lost or stolen items. University Academy discards all items left unclaimed in the Lost and Found on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month. All electronics not claimed after 90 days will be discarded.

### **Make-up Assignments for Absences**

Students must contact their teachers for missed assignments upon their return to class. Students have one (1) day to make up missed work for each day missed. Parents of Lower School students will need to request their child's work from their teacher.

### **Parent Pick-Up**

Your child's safety is extremely important to University Academy. Therefore, we want to make sure your student is present during times when adult supervision is available. Parents may arrange for transporting their student(s) privately, including dropping students off at University Academy at 7:00 a.m. and picking them up no later than 3:00 p.m.

Parents may pick up students from 2:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Due to the frequency and increasing number of daily transportation changes, we ask that you avoid them. Our students' safety is of the utmost concern and reducing the number of transportation changes ensures that your child is on the bus if that is how they normally get home from school or that your child is in parent pick-up waiting for their ride home. **Lower School parents must call the school no later than 12:00 Noon to change a student's transportation home.** We will not grant transportation change requests after 12:00 Noon. All students should be off school grounds no later than 3:10 p.m. unless under the direct supervision of a UA employee.

### **Lower School Reminders:**

- Parents/guardians must present state-issued photo identification to sign out a student from Lower School

Siblings in grades 6-12 must provide a note from their parent/guardian authorizing them to pick up a younger sibling from Parent Pick-Up.

- Once students are on school buses, school staff should not remove them from their bus *for any reason* without approval from the Operations Manager or COO.
- To request a change in a Lower School student's end of the day transportation method home, parents/guardians must call the Lower School Office (816-412-9230) *before* 12:00 Noon.

**Lower School administration will not excuse students from class during the end of the day transition time, 2:00 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.**

Remember, anytime your student is at school longer than 30 minutes after dismissal, University Academy administration has the option of contacting local authorities to pick up your student(s) from school.

Please ensure that your student's principal has the correct and most current information regarding authorized persons who may or may not pick up your child from school. Any person listed on the Sexual Offender Registry is not to be within 500 feet of the property (RSMo.566.149).

### **Parking Lot Safety**

University Academy requires all vehicles to follow the posted restrictions regarding **one-way signs**, parking, bus lanes, loading and unloading zones, etc. Vehicles are not to block other vehicles, and only use designated areas and routes for dropping off and/or picking up students at school. In an effort to prevent traffic congestion, students may not wait or be dropped off or picked up at the blue cones in the Fire Lane.

Bus loading areas are not available to pedestrians, adults, and/or persons without the authority to be *on* the bus. Missouri State Statute RSMo.569.155 states: "...A person commits the crime of trespass of a school bus if he/she knowingly enters any part of, or unlawfully operates, any school bus. Trespass of a school bus is a Class A Misdemeanor."

Parents dropping students off may use the South Lot drop-off location (bus lot) off Holmes Road.

- Drop-off starts at 7:00 a.m.
- This lot is normally reserved for school buses that arrive between 6:45 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. Be aware that buses arriving late will also travel in this area to drop off students. It is critical to everyone's safety that drivers pay close attention to the traffic duty staff.
- This lot is locked at 7:28 a.m.
- Parking is NOT allowed in this area.
- To gain access to the new drop off location, traffic must enter northbound on Holmes Road, turning right to enter the area to drop off students. Please follow the traffic pattern until you reach the new drop-off zone.

Please follow the directions from the traffic duty staff. Staff is responsible for directing all traffic that enters the parking lots to ensure that everyone has a safe and efficient experience. The expectation is that everyone cooperates with this process. Your cooperation will prevent or minimize accidents and delays.

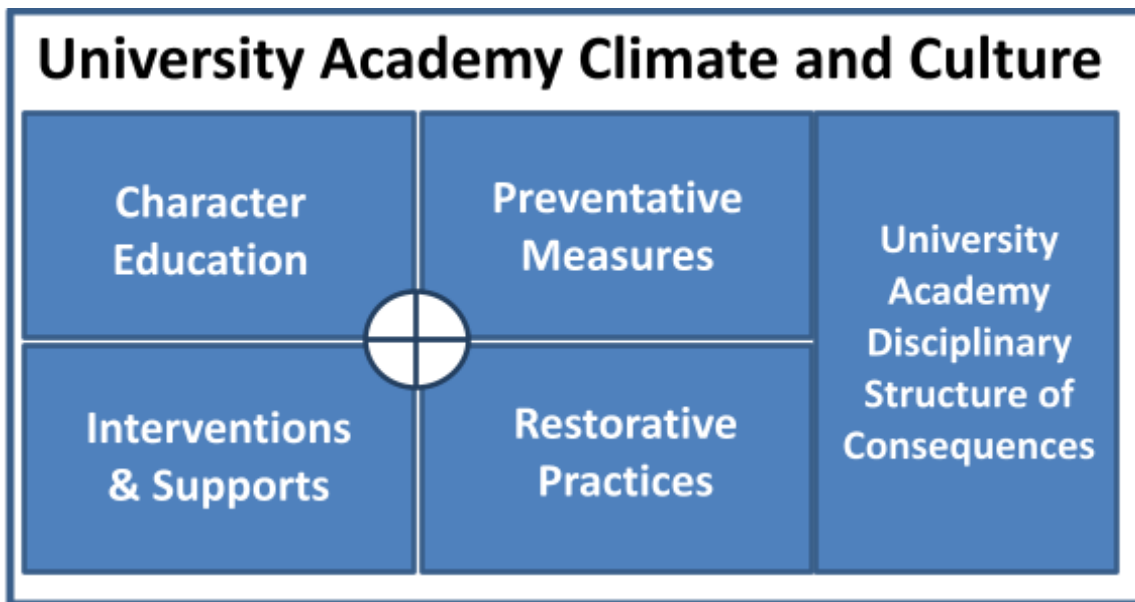
## **XI. 2023-2024 UNIVERSITY ACADEMY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE GUIDELINES**

### **Introduction**

The goals of University Academy's discipline policies are to protect all students and staff from unwanted harm, and to teach and correct unacceptable behavior using restorative justice practices as a first intervention and using suspensions as a last resort. University Academy

believes in the power of restorative justice and counseling as a first intervention to non-violent actions and we are committed to using a variety of interventions and resort to out-of-school suspensions only when necessary.

University Academy is committed to implementing preventative and restorative practices within our discipline model to build and sustain a culture of kindness, respect, responsibility, and equity. We achieve this through emphasizing the importance of trusting relationships central to building a safe community and contributing to social and emotional learning. The discipline



guideline provides information about our expectations for student behavior and steps we take should an issue arise.

This Handbook applies whenever the student's conduct reasonably relates to school or school activities, including, but not limited to:

1. On school grounds at any time
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity
4. Anywhere school personnel consider the behavior a threat or intimidation of school staff, or interference with school purposes.

University Academy frames its discipline guidelines by overarching themes: preventative measures, interventions and support, restorative practices, and disciplinary consequences. This Student-Parent Handbook serves as a resource to students, parents, teachers, and administrators, to highlight this framework.

### **Preventative Measures**

Prevention is about proactively addressing student behavior rather than responding to misbehavior in a reactive manner. In the area of prevention, University Academy supports the use of many research-based approaches for promoting positive student behavior: Character Education, Responsive Classroom, Conscious Discipline®, or Behavior Intervention Support

Team (BIST). These are just a few approaches among several designed to prevent misbehavior by promoting positive behavior.

### **Character Education**

University Academy expects modeling good character by all staff and students. Seeing tangible examples of good character is a powerful tool for developing and reinforcing positive behavior within schools. Students who exhibit good character contribute to the overall safety and orderliness of the school; promote student achievement; and increase student and staff morale. For a list of monthly Character Education themes (See page 13).

### **Character Service**

Character Service is the restorative practice of building up personal character while promoting service within the school. When students make poor decisions, they may have a negative impact on others in the school community. Character Service will allow the student to build the area(s) within themselves that needs reinforcing. It also allows the student to interact within the school community in a positive and productive way. Examples of Character Service: reading to younger students, making character posters to hang on the walls, mentoring a younger student, writing formal apology letters, etc.

### **Conscious Discipline**

Conscious Discipline is a brain-based approach for creating a positive school environment that begins with teaching students about the brain/body connection. Once students develop an awareness of how their thinking affects their actions, students learn to regulate their own behavior.

The overarching goal of Conscious Discipline® is to teach students to discipline themselves with their behavior so that they are not subject to disciplinary consequences for their behavior.

A second component of Conscious Discipline® focuses on the behavior of adults when responding to students' misbehavior. According to Conscious Discipline® teachings, adults should possess skills to transform behavioral incidences into teachable moments:

1. Composure
2. Encouragement
3. Assertiveness
4. Choices
5. Empathy
6. Positive intent; and
7. Consequences. Conscious Discipline® requires that the adults use these skills and teachable moments to teach students life-long

### **Responsive Classroom**

Responsive Classroom is a student-centered, social, and emotional learning approach to teaching and discipline. It consists of research and evidence-based practices designed to create safe, joyful, and engaging classrooms and school communities for both students and teachers.

University Academy's Lower School classrooms engage students in daily morning meetings to build a strong sense of community and set them up for success academically, socially, and behaviorally.

### **BIST - Behavior Intervention Support Team**

Designed as a proactive approach to teach and protect students via grace and accountability, students can make good choices and have the ownership to replace unwanted behaviors with desired behaviors. We accomplish this through a series of concepts implemented by classroom teachers.

- Safe Seat: A seat in the classroom away from other students to help a student regroup; process with an adult, then rejoin the class.
- Buddy Room: A seat in another teacher's classroom to help a student regroup, complete a "Think Sheet" and process with an adult so they may return to the classroom Safe Seat.
- "Think Sheet": A tool a student completes to help him/her take ownership of the problem, collaborate with adults, and create a plan to be successful.
- Processing: Questions the adult asks the student so he/she may take ownership, practice skills, and create a plan to make better choices.
- Recovery/Focus Room: Places where students can go to practice replacement skills, calm down, prepare an apology, or create a plan to make better choices.
- Triage: Daily adult "check-in" to practice replacement skills, assess emotions, focus on what it means to have a successful day and formulate solutions to problems.
- Target Behavior Sheet: A daily visual of goals the student is working on to help him/her problem-solve.

### **Interventions and Supports to Prevent Class I and Class II Violations**

Listed below are some interventions and supports that faculty and staff members **have the option** to use as a proactive approach to prevent students from committing class offenses.

- A. Use proximity control to keep students on task
- B. Pre-correct individual student's behavior
- C. Use nonverbal cues/signaling
- D. Conduct in-class conferences with students
- E. Determine root causes and functions of student misbehavior and respond appropriately
- F. Teach, practice, and reinforce positive replacement behaviors
- G. Provide special work assignments, such as service to the school, research, etc.
- H. Provide movement breaks between low-energy activities for individual students as deemed appropriate
- I. Use a safe or reflection area in the classroom
- J. Require the student to complete a written reflection/apology for misbehavior
- K. Provide choices for learning activities and behavior
- L. Use student behavior strategies, progress reports, behavior contracts, and/or behavior point sheets
- M. Use goal setting paired with acknowledgment of improved behavior for individual student
- N. Assign a student-buddy supporter
- O. Recommend peer mediation support

- P. Recommend conflict resolution support
- Q. Contact student's parent
  - 1. Hold a parent and student conference
  - 2. Assign detention (parent contact mandatory)
  - 3. Provide small group character-building and social skills training
  - 4. Refer student to Student Support Services staff for support
  - 5. Develop and implement or review and revise student support plan for eligible student that includes interventions, supports, or strategies designed to help the student to behave appropriately
  - 6. Develop and implement or review and revise a 504 Plan for eligible student, including behavioral accommodations as deemed necessary

### **Restorative Practices**

Restorative practices refer to a defined set of behaviors used by students, staff, and administrators to establish, maintain, and rebuild relationships. Establishing positive relationships begins with the teacher creating a sense of community within the classroom. Through a shared sense of community, instances of disruptive behavior are diminished. When disruptive behaviors occur in the classroom, the result is harm to the classroom community and to individuals. The student responsible for causing the harm should engage in restorative practices to return the relationships or the community to their original, positive state.

### **Restorative Practice Principles**

The following principles reflect the values and concepts for implementing restorative practices.

- 1. Acknowledges that relationships are central to building community
- 2. Builds systems that address misbehavior and harm in a way that strengthens relationships
- 3. Focuses on the harm done rather than only on rule-breaking
- 4. Gives voice to the person harmed
- 5. Engages in collaborative problem solving
- 6. Empowers change and growth
- 7. Enhances Responsibility

Some of the restorative practices, however, can and should be used in a pro-active manner to build a positive classroom community.

### **Disciplinary Consequences for Class Offenses**

Even with preventative measures in place for addressing behavior, students will sometimes engage in behaviors that violate the school system's code of conduct. When students exhibit such behaviors, students will be subject to disciplinary action.

Administrators have discretion in applying consequences in response to violations of the code of conduct. Disciplinary consequences include, but are not limited to, withdrawal of school privileges (athletics, intramurals, student clubs, activities and school social events); removal

from school for up to ten (10) school days by the principal; a student discipline hearing and/or long-term suspension by the Superintendent/designee or expulsion from school by the Board.

University Academy has the authority to control student conduct that is detrimental to good order, maintain discipline, or work towards completing the mission of the school as provided by state law. Authorized school officials will hold students accountable for misconduct in school, in remote sessions, on school property, during school-sponsored activities and for conduct away from school or in non-school activities that affect school discipline.

Students forfeit their right to a free, public education by engaging in conduct prohibited by school policy. Disciplinary consequences include, but are not limited to, withdrawal of school privileges (athletics, intramurals, student clubs, activities and school social events); removal for up to ten (10) school days by the principal; a student discipline hearing and/or transfer to virtual/remote learning, or long-term suspension by the Superintendent/designee or expulsion from school by the Board.

### **Class I Violations**

#### **Key Terms:**

OSS = Out-of-School Suspension

ISI = In-School Intervention (student will be placed in the Recovery classroom during this time)

Recovery Room = classroom next to principal's office monitored by an intervention specialist.

1. **Possession, Exhibition, and/or Distribution of Obscene Literature or Material** – Possessing, exhibiting, or distributing materials that offend common decency or morals.
2. **Misuse of Computer** – Any inappropriate misuse of computer and/or network practices. Automatic suspension of computer privileges is in addition to the consequences listed.
3. **Failure to Abide by the University Academy Dress Code** – This includes clothing, shoes, jewelry, and backpacks.
4. **Tardiness** – Any excused lateness to class beyond the scheduled time that the class begins. Each school (Middle and Upper) determines consequences for tardiness. Among their consequences, the Upper School places habitually tardy students on a “No-Pass” list. Once students have improved their tardiness they may request that a teacher write an appeal letter on their behalf asking to have their name removed from the list.
5. **Conspiracy to Commit a Class I Violation** – An agreement and/or concerted effort by two or more persons to commit a Class I Violation.
6. **Cell Phone & Other Electronic Device Usage, including Smart Watches, during School Hours** – School policy prohibits use of the aforementioned items are prohibited during school hours (7:25 a.m.-2:35 p.m.) and/or at the direction of school personnel.

**First Occurrence** – Verbal warning and/or confiscation of the device

**Second Occurrence** – Confiscation of device, parent must pick up item; and

**Third Occurrence** – Conference with parent and possible ISS or OSS

**Fourth Occurrence** – Restorative Intervention and/or Recovery Room ½ day and a Parent Conference

### Class I Consequences

Lower School, K-2	Lower School, 3-5	Middle School, 6-8	Upper School, 9-12
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence</b>			
Restorative Intervention	Restorative Intervention and/or Character Service	Restorative Intervention, detention, 1 day ISI and/or Character Service	Restorative Intervention, Saturday School, 1 day ISI and/or Character Service

### Class I Consequences

Lower School, K-2	Lower School, 3-5	Middle School, 6-8	Upper School, 9-12
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence</b>			
Restorative Intervention (1 hour)	Restorative Intervention (½ day) and/or Character Service	Restorative Intervention, detention, 1-3 days ISI/OSS, and/or Character Service	Restorative Intervention, Saturday School, 1-3 days ISI/OSS, and/or Character Service
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Occurrence</b>			
Restorative Intervention (2 hours)	ISI 1-2 days and/or Character Service	Character Service and 3-5 days ISI/OSS	Character Service and 3-5 days ISI/OSS
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Occurrence</b>			
Restorative Intervention (1 day) and a Parent Conference	ISI 2-3 days		

### Class II Violations

- 1. Academic Dishonesty** – Cheating on tests, copying assignments or papers, or signing a parent/guardian/teacher's signature on a document. Consequences, in addition to those listed include receiving a zero score on the specific assignment by the teacher and a mandatory parent conference.
- 2. Defiance of Authority** – Refusing to comply with a reasonable request from school personnel or outside volunteers or disobeys any general classroom and/or school rule/expectation. Blatant misbehavior results in a second office referral.
- 3. Disruptive Behavior in the Classroom, School or During a School Activity** – Intentional acts or conduct in the classroom, remotely, in the school building or on school grounds, which disrupt the education process. The District considers throwing items within the classroom, making noises, or causing the teacher to stop instruction to address student misconduct, a disruption. The District prohibits students from bringing disruptive items to school such as, but not limited to, toys, large amounts of money, cell phones, iPods, or other personal electronic equipment. Any item brought to school that is not school related may be confiscated by school personnel and may be turned over to a school administrator. The retrieval of confiscated items by a parent or guardian will be at the administrator's discretion.



4. **Use of Abusive, Obscene, offensive or Profane Language and/or Gestures** – The use of any offensive language, acts, unwelcome remarks or expressions, names or slurs or any other behavior including obscene gestures which is offensive to modesty or decency. Any slurs, innuendos, or other verbal or physical conduct reflecting on an individual's gender, race, color, religion, ethnic or natural origin, sexual orientation or disability, which has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment. Consequences may also include referral to law enforcement authorities.
5. **Gambling** – Participation in games of chance for money and/or other things of value.
6. **Dangerous Behavior** – Behaving in such a way that could cause injury to a student, teacher, or other staff member (i.e., running in the building, horse-playing, wrestling, inappropriate use of equipment or materials, etc.). This includes violation of posted vehicle restrictions including violation of directional signs, speeding, and parking in unauthorized areas.
7. **Conspiracy to Commit a Class II Violation** – An agreement and/or concerted effort by two or more persons to commit a Class II Violation.
8. **Display of Affection** – Any public, physical demonstration of affection is subject to administrators' discretion.
9. **Misconduct** – Combination of three (3) Class I violations (Grades 2-12).

#### Class II Consequences

Lower School, K-2	Lower School, 3-5	Middle School, 6-8	Upper School, 9-12
1 <sup>st</sup> Occurrence			
Restorative Intervention	Character Service	Counseling Intervention, 1-3-days ISI and/or Character Service	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Occurrence			
Restorative Intervention and/or ISI (2 hours)	Character Service, Recovery/ISI 1 day	Counseling Intervention, 1-5 days ISI/OSS, and/or Character Service	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 1-2 days and a Parent Conference	ISI 2-4 days and/or Character Service	5-10-days ISI/OSS, Character Service, and/or possible referral for a Hearing	
4 <sup>th</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 2-3 days	Character Service and/or ISI/OSS 3-5 days		
5 <sup>th</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 3-5 days			

#### Class III Violations

##### Serious Violations of the District's Discipline Policy

University Academy considers all Class III and Class IV Serious Violations of the Discipline Guidelines and Policies of the District's Discipline Policy.

1. **Unauthorized Entry** – Allowing or assisting any individual(s) to enter the school or grounds other than through designated entrances, without approval of school personnel.
2. **Truancy** – The deliberate absence from compulsory schooling on the part of the pupil with or without the knowledge of the parent/guardian. These are absences by students of their own free will, and do not refer to legitimate “excused” absences, such as ones related to a medical condition as communicated by a parent or guardian to school officials.
3. **Stealing** – Taking something that does not belong to you. Knowingly receiving stolen property or possession of stolen property is included in this violation.
4. **Extortion** – Obtaining money, other articles of value, or information from someone by coercion or intimidation.
5. **Possession of Cigarette Lighters and/or Matches** – The use or possession of a cigarette lighter, matches or other device that can be utilized to start a fire, while not in the possession of cigarettes or tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes.
6. **Inciting a Fight and/or Contribution to a Disruptive Situation** – A student provoking another student with the intentional purpose of disrupting any school function, classroom, or school bus. This violation includes but is not limited to verbal or physical harassment. Consequences may also include referral to law enforcement authorities and/or long-term suspension (11-180 school days) or expulsion.
7. **Chronic Misconduct** – The combination of more than four (4) office referrals for Class I and/or Class II Violations during an academic school year.
8. **Conspiracy to Commit a Class III Violation** – An agreement and/or concerted effort by two or more persons to commit a Class III Violation.

#### Class III Consequences

Lower School, K-2	Lower School, 3-5	Middle School, 6-8	Upper School, 9-12
1 <sup>st</sup> Occurrence			
Restorative Intervention and/or ISI	Restorative Intervention, Character Service, and/or ISI 1-2 days	Parent Conference, Character Service, 1-3 days ISI/OSS, and/or possible referral to law enforcement	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 1-2 days	Character Service, ISI/OSS 2-3 days and a Parent Conference	Parent Conference, 3-5 days ISI/OSS, Character Service, possible referral for a Hearing, and/or possible alternative placement or referral to law enforcement	Parent Conference, 3-5 days ISI/OSS, Character Service, and/or possible referral to law enforcement
3 <sup>rd</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 2-3 days and required parent meeting	Character Service, ISI/OSS 3-5 days	Parent Conference, 5-10 days OSS, Character Service, possible referral for	Parent Conference, 5-10 days OSS, Character Service, possible referral for a Hearing and/or

		a Hearing, and/or possible alternative placement or referral to law enforcement	possible alternative placement or referral to law enforcement
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#### 4<sup>th</sup> Occurrence

ISI 3-5 days. No re-admittance to class until a parent meeting is held	ISI/OSS 5-10 days. No re-admittance to class until a parent meeting is held	
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#### 5<sup>th</sup> Occurrence

ISS/OSS 5-10 days		
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#### Class IV Violations

- Bullying** – University Academy is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from any form of bullying or intimidation. The District strictly prohibits bullying on school grounds, during school time, at a school-sponsored activity or in a school-related context, as defined on page 18.  
A person violates this policy by willfully committing an act of bullying, or by knowingly participating in, aiding, assisting, or encouraging any act of bullying. Students who believe they are victims of bullying should immediately report the incident(s) to a teacher, coach, counselor, administrator, or Security. Students may also contact the Safety Hotline at 816.412.WARN (9276) or at <http://www.universityacademy.org>.
- Possession and/or Use of Tobacco** – Law prohibits the use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, by students in the school building, on school grounds, and at school-sponsored activities.
- Possession of Identifiable Drug Paraphernalia** – Possession of items used to pack, weigh, store or contain a controlled substance at school, on school property or during *ANY* school activity. Confiscation of all items will occur in all instances.
- Alcohol/Drug Possession and/or Consumption** – Possession of, or using controlled substances at school, on school property or during *ANY* school activity. Local law enforcement agencies will receive items confiscated from the student in all instances. The student, in no case, may attend school or classes under the influence of drugs or alcohol. (See “Prohibition against Drugs and Alcohol” on page 19).
- Possession and/or Use of Toxic Substances** – Use of intoxicants, which cause a loss of control or inebriation (i.e., glue, solvent, etc.) at school, on school property or during *ANY* school activity.
- Possession of Drugs with Intent to Sell/Distribute** – The possession of a controlled substance that by virtue of the quantity, packaging or other circumstances demonstrates intent or effort to sell or distribute at school, on school property or during *ANY* school activity.

7. **Possession and/or Use of a Simulated Weapon** – The possession, concealing, or display of a simulated weapon including, but not limited to, toy guns and/or cap guns.
8. **Possession of Controlled and Non-Controlled Substances** – All controlled (prescription medication) and non-controlled substances (over the counter medicine) must be turned in to the school Nurse's Office prior to the start of a school day. Parents/guardians must complete and turn in to the Nurse's Office a form requesting administration of medication by school personnel. Lower School students may not self-administer any medications including cough drops.
9. **Distribution and/or Purchase of Controlled and Non-Controlled Substances** – Possession, distribution, attempts to distribute, or possession with intent to distribute a non-controlled or controlled substance will merit consequences. Consequences may also include referral to law enforcement authorities and/or long-term suspension (11-180 school days) or expulsion. School administration will notify The Kansas City Police Department and inform them of the violation. School administration will follow their recommendations for further action.
10. **Vandalism** – Willful or malicious damage to any school building or property. This includes damage to the property of an employee or another student as well as damage to neighborhood property when on a field trip or on any school activity away from the school.
11. **Threatening another Student or School Personnel** – Any verbal, written, or physical threat to do violence to another student or school personnel.
12. **Fighting** – Mutual combat in which both parties have contributed to the conflict; either verbally or physically, regardless of who initiated physical contact.
13. **Assault of Another Student or School Personnel** – A student's participation in any actual act or intentional touching or striking of another student or school personnel causing physical harm, or an attempt to do the same or placing a person in apprehension of immediate physical injury. Note: This offense includes, but is not limited to, biting, spitting, kicking, stepping on, stabbing/slashing, pushing/throwing students against a locker, wall or to the ground, cutting another student's hair and/or relieving oneself on another student.
14. **Sexual Harassment** – Actual or simulated conduct for the purpose of sexual stimulation, including but not limited to, fondling, touching, indecent exposure, or the engagement in any heterosexual or homosexual act or depiction at school, on school property, or during *ANY* school activity. University Academy prohibits sexual jokes or comments, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal conduct of a sexual nature on school property, during school functions or at school-sponsored activities.
15. **Sexual Misconduct** – May be committed verbally, non-verbally, physically, in writing, electronically by email or on the Internet, phone messages, text messages, or any other medium of communication or expression. Actual and/or intention touching, or fondling would constitute sexual contact. This violation also includes any heterosexual or homosexual act. A student's consent or voluntary participation in any sexual act or form of sexual misconduct is irrelevant, and all students found to have engaged in sexual misconduct will receive the same consequences.

Acts of bullying may be committed verbally, non-verbally, physically, in writing, electronically by email or on the Internet, phone messages, text messages, or any other

medium of communication or expression. This includes “sexting” and sending or receiving inappropriate photos regardless of the student being the sender or receiver.

- 16. Possession, Use, and/or Sale of Explosives** – The carrying, concealing, use, or sale of a bomb, dynamite or other deadly explosives including fireworks. An explosive is defined as any explosive, incendiary, bomb or similar device designed or adapted which causes death, serious physical injury, or substantial property damage; or any device designed or adapted for delivering or shooting a weapon (i.e., fireworks, gas bombs, smoke bombs, stink bombs, firebombs, etc.).
- 17. Possession and/or Use of a Firearm** – Possession and/or use of a firearm or gun of any kind that injures someone or places someone in fear or apprehension of bodily harm.

In compliance with the “Gun Free Schools Act” (Federal) and RSMo.160.261: Any student who is determined to have brought a weapon (as defined in this subparagraph) to school in violation of this policy shall be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year or expelled and will be referred to the appropriate legal authorities. The principal may modify such suspension on a case-by-case basis. For this subparagraph, the term “weapon” shall mean a “firearm” as defined under 18 U.S.C.921:

Any weapon, which will or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant:

- The frame or receiver of any weapon described above
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas; or
- Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described above, and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

- 18. Possession and/or Use of Weapon Other than a Firearm** – Possession and/or use of an instrument, device, or projectile that could reasonably be used to attack or defend against another person; or any instrument or device that could reasonably be used to threaten, intimidate, or inflict physical injury or harm to another person. A weapon may include but is not limited to the following:

- Taser
- Knife (i.e., pocket-knife, pen knife, or anything with a blade)
- Projectile weapon (i.e., pellet gun, BB gun, slingshot, bow, crossbow, etc.)
- Blackjack
- Brass knuckles
- Pepper spray
- Mace
- Laser pointer
- Lighter, matches or any incendiary devices
- Normal school supplies, household items, or other materials (i.e., scissors, nail file, chains, etc.), which are used for attack, defense, to threaten, intimidate, or inflict physical injury or harm to another person.

- 19. False Alarms** – Pulling a fire alarm when there is no fire or smoke and/or making false bomb reports or intentionally dialing 911.

- 20. Arson** – Starting a fire or causing an explosion with the intent to damage the personal property and/or buildings (i.e., setting papers/books on fire, placing lighted matches, or burning paper in trash container, exploding fireworks/bombs, setting property or buildings on fire, etc.).
- 21. Conspiracy to Commit a Class IV Violation** – An agreement and/or concerted effort by two or more persons to commit a Class IV Violation.
- 22. Unauthorized Entry** – Allowing or assisting any individual(s) to enter the school or grounds other than through designated entrances, without approval of school personnel.
- 23. Disrespect of School Staff** – Verbal or written abusive, profane, threatening, or inappropriate language or action directed to or about a staff member.

#### Class IV Consequences

Lower School, K-2	Lower School, 3-5	Middle School, 6-8	Upper School, 9-12
1 <sup>st</sup> Occurrence			
In-School Intervention (ISI) 1-3 days	Character Service, Parent Conference, 1-3 days ISI/OSS	Parent Conference, 5-10-days ISI/OSS, Character Service, possible referral (if applicable), possible expulsion, and/or possible referral for a Hearing	Parent Conference, ISI, 5-10-days ISI/OSS, possible referral for a Hearing, referral to law enforcement (if applicable), possible expulsion
Class IV Consequences			
Lower School, K-2	Lower School, 3-5	Middle School, 6-8	Upper School, 9-12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 2-3 days and required parent meeting	Character Service, 3-5 days ISI/OSS and Parent Conference	Character Service, Parent Conference, 10 days OSS, referral for a Hearing, and/or possible alternative placement or referral to law enforcement	Character Service, Parent Conference, 10 days OSS, referral for a Hearing, and/or possible alternative placement or referral to law enforcement
3 <sup>rd</sup> Occurrence			
ISI 3-5 days No re-admittance to class until a parent meeting is held	5-10 days OSS		
4 <sup>th</sup> Occurrence			
ISI/OSS 5-10 days No re-admittance to class until a parent meeting is held	11-180 days OSS with a Hearing		
5 <sup>th</sup> Occurrence and Beyond			

11-180 days OSS with a Hearing		
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### **Discipline Rubric**

University Academy has developed discipline guidelines and a rubric that identifies inappropriate and unacceptable behaviors and the corresponding consequences for engaging in these behaviors. The rubric is a guide for District and individual University Academy administrators. Additional information regarding specific disruptive and inappropriate behaviors, behavior intervention strategies, and discipline consequences specific to a certain grade level are available from University Academy administrators. For determining consequences, occurrences reset each school year. Modifications of consequences may occur to developmentally appropriate levels on a student-by-student basis.

### **Explanation of Consequences**

#### **Expulsion**

The term “expulsion” refers to permanent exclusion from school. An expulsion is a disciplinary action resulting in not allowing a student to attend school for more than one hundred eighty (180) school days. The Board of Directors must approve the student’s re-admission into University Academy.

If a student consistently or defiantly refuses to conform to school policies or rules, the Superintendent/designee may recommend to the Board that the student be expelled from school. The Board will review such recommendations and decide whether to proceed with an expulsion hearing.

#### **Hearing (Student Discipline)**

A hearing is an administrative proceeding with the Superintendent (or his/her designee), to determine additional consequences for a student’s commission of a Class III and/or a Class IV Offense.

#### **Restorative Staff Intervention**

Administration will meet with the parent/guardian to discuss student offenses and to develop a plan of action to prevent future occurrences. Administration’s decision shall be final unless overturned through the Appeal Process (See page 76).

#### **In-School Intervention (ISI)**

In-School Intervention is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is isolated or removed from regular classroom activities (formerly known as the Recovery Room). The student remains in the school setting. The principal/designee may assign students to the in-school intervention program for a reasonable and specified period, not to exceed ten (10) consecutive days for each offense. This does not include placing the student in another regular classroom. Students must complete all assignments before dismissal.

### **In-School-Intervention (Lower School)**

In-School-Intervention (ISI) has the primary focus for the student to display positive expectations and behaviors. The structure supports the academic and social success of all students while encouraging acceptable behavior expectations in a learning environment. The learning environment encourages expected behaviors and teaches desired restorative behavior. It is a short-term placement for a student within a school setting, in which a student does work for the assignments missed in class and a plan to avoid future disciplinary actions and return to his/her class.

### **In-School-Intervention (Middle and Upper Schools)**

The Middle and Upper Schools' In-School-Intervention (ISI) has the primary focus for the student to display positive expectations and behaviors of students who have been disruptive in the regular classroom, or who have violated a school rule for which a teacher has written a discipline referral. Students are in ISI for only a limited time, ranging from one to four hours, in order to afford them the opportunity to reflect on their actions, refocus on learning, and "recover" the trust

that the said action broke with the teacher and the larger school community. ISI has clear expectations that are consistently enforced. Students who cannot or will not abide by the Recovery Room rules receive an Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) as a last resort.

An ISI referral is usually in lieu of a suspension. The goals of University Academy's discipline policies are to protect all students and staff from unwanted harm, and to teach acceptable behavior and to correct unacceptable behavior. University Academy believes in the power of restorative discipline as a first intervention to non-violent actions and we are committed to using a variety of interventions and resort to out-of-school suspensions only when necessary, to:

- To support students who are struggling behaviorally or who are experiencing challenges relating to others or abiding by school rules
- To support students who need assistance in developing independent and appropriate behavior. This may include helping the student with implementing a plan to repair behavioral errors or to rebuild trust with fellow students and adults in the school community.
- To support the student in following Upper School's rules of conduct

### **Long-term Suspension**

A long-term suspension is the exclusion from school for a period of eleven (11) to one hundred eighty (180) school days. A long-term suspension always follows an Out-of-School suspension.

### **Notice Provisions, Requirements and Definitions under the Missouri Safe Schools Act**

State law requires school administrators to report acts of school violence to teachers and other University Academy personnel with a "need to know." School personnel with a "need to know" refers to school personnel who are solely responsible for the student's education or otherwise interact with the student on a professional basis while acting within the scope of their assigned duties. School administrators will report to the appropriate law enforcement agency, as soon as possible, any of the following felonies or any act. These acts, which, if committed by an adult, would be one of the following felonies if committed on school property, include, but are not



limited to actions on any school bus, in service on behalf of University Academy, or while involved in school activities:

- First Degree Murder under RSMo.565.020
- Second Degree Murder under RSMo.565.021
- Kidnapping under RSMo.565.110
- First Degree Assault under RSMo.565.050
- Forcible Rape under RSMo.566.030
- Forcible Sodomy under RSMo.566.060
- Burglary in the First Degree under RSMo.569.160
- Burglary in the Second Degree under RSMo.569.170
- Robbery in the First Degree under RSMo.569.020
- Distribution of Drugs under RSMo.195.211
- Distribution of Drugs to a Minor under RSMo.195.212
- Arson in the First Degree under RSMo.569.040
- Voluntary Manslaughter under RSMo.565.023
- Involuntary Manslaughter under RSMo.565.024
- Second Degree Assault under RSMo.565.060
- Sexual Assault under RSMo.566.040
- Felonious Restraint under RSMo.565.120
- Property Damage in the First Degree under RSMo.569.100
- Possession of a Weapon under RSMo.571
- Child Molestation in the First Degree under RSMo.566.067
- Deviant Sexual Assault under RSMo.566.070
- Sexual Misconduct Involving a Child under RSMo.566.083
- Sexual Abuse under RSMo.566.100; and/or
- Trespass of a School Bus RSMo.569.155

University Academy will notify appropriate law enforcement agencies in all situations where a student's conduct violates state law or municipal ordinances. University Academy will fully cooperate in any investigation and encourage personnel to prosecute students who are involved in conduct that causes physical harm to them. Parents/adults, who violate the trespass statute, are subject to prosecution and may cause suspension of bus riding privileges for their student(s).

In addition, if a juvenile officer notifies University Academy of a petition filing alleging that a student has committed a serious offense against persons or property, teachers, and other school personnel with a need to know will receive that information. University Academy will keep any information regarding serious offenses confidential and used only for the limited purposes of assuring that good order and discipline is maintained in the school. University Academy may not use this information as the sole basis for not providing educational services to a student.

Sharing of information will occur with teachers and other school personnel with a need to know if a student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that indicates the student's condition includes violent behavior or includes a behavior disorder, if necessary.

**A. Mandatory Discipline for Certain Weapons Violations**

If a student is determined to have brought any of the following weapons to school, or upon school property in violation of this and other University Academy policies, the

student shall be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) calendar year or recommended for expulsion. The Superintendent may modify such suspension or recommendation for expulsion on a case-by-case basis: firearm, blackjack, concealable firearm, explosive weapon, firearm silencer, gas gun, knife, brass knuckles, machine gun, projectile weapon, rifle, shotgun, spring gun or switchblade knife. For purposes of this section, a “knife” means a dagger, dirk, stiletto, or bladed hand instrument that is readily capable of inflicting serious physical injury or death by cutting or stabbing a person. In determining whether a student will be subject to a mandatory one (1) year suspension, a “knife” shall not include any ordinary pocket knife with a blade of four inches in length or less. However, an ordinary pocket knife with a blade of any length is a “weapon” as that term is used in this and other University Academy policies and the possession, sale, use or transfer of a pocket knife on school property will subject a student to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion.

**B. Violent Acts**

Pursuant to the Safe Schools Act, the phrase “act of school violence” or “violent behavior” means the exertion of physical force by a student with the intent to do serious physical injury to another person while on school property, including a school bus in service on behalf of University Academy or while involved in school activities. “Serious physical injury” is physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any part of the body. University Academy considers, for example, assaulting a student, teacher, or any other employee of University Academy and third-degree assaults as violent acts.

**C. Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment means any act of physical force upon a student for the purpose of punishment. No person employed by or volunteering on behalf of University Academy shall administer or cause to be administered corporal punishment upon a student. A staff member may, however, use reasonable physical force against a student without advance notice to the principal if it is essential for self-defense, the preservation of order or for the protection of other persons or the property of University Academy.

**Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)**

As a last resort, removal of a student from school by the principal or his/her designee for a period not to exceed ten (10) consecutive school days for each offense will occur. Parents/guardians receive notification prior to the suspension.

**Procedure for Assignments during Out-of-School Suspension**

Students on OSS may request that work from their respective office administrative assistant be available in the Central Administration Office for pick up. However, it is the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian to arrange this. All assignments will be due immediately upon the student’s return to school. Students may make up tests given during a suspension within three (3) days of the student’s return to school. All students on out-of-school suspension are encouraged to take each of their books home. It is essential that suspended students take responsibility for keeping up with any missed work so they will not fall further behind in their classes.

During the suspension period, students cannot attend school, school-sponsored activities or come upon school premises.

### **Procedures for Suspensions and Expulsions**

#### **I. Out-of-School Suspension (10 School Days or Less)**

Principals or their designees, subject to the appropriate due process procedures and state statutes, may summarily suspend any student for up to ten (10) school days for violation of the Discipline Guidelines and Policies. The Superintendent or his/her designee will immediately receive notification of any suspension. The Superintendent or his/her designee may revoke the suspension at any time.

Prior to imposing the suspension, the principal or his/her designee must adhere to the following procedures:

1. Determine whether the student is a special needs student. The student is a special needs student if any of the following are present:
  - has an IEP
  - has a Section 504 Plan or request
  - is in the process of being evaluated for a disability

If the student is not a special needs student, the principal or his/her designee should proceed as discussed below:

2. Inform the student, verbally or in writing, of the charges against him/her and give him/her the opportunity to admit or deny the allegations.
3. If the student denies the charges, he/she must receive an explanation of the facts as known to school personnel and use the opportunity to present his/her version of the incident before any consequences are imposed.
4. If he/she deems it necessary, the principal or his/her designee may conduct a further investigation into the matter before imposing a disciplinary suspension.
5. The suspended student's parent or legal guardian will receive notification of the suspension within twenty-four (24) hours of the decision, which starts the seven (7) day appeal period.

For purposes of this Policy, the principal may designate an assistant principal to act on the principal's behalf, subject to the principal's supervision. In some cases, the principal or assistant principal may choose to shorten the length of suspension after a parent conference or if another satisfactory solution to the problem is mutual. In such cases, consultation with the teacher involved in the offense will result.

#### **II. Long-term Suspensions (11-180 School Days)**

The Superintendent, or his/her designee, may suspend students from school for a period of eleven (11) to one hundred eighty (180) days after the student and his/her

parents/guardians have been afforded a disciplinary hearing. The Superintendent shall officially declare regulations, setting out procedures for the hearing. For purposes of this policy, the Superintendent may designate an administrator to act on the Superintendent's behalf, subject to the Superintendent's supervision.

During the hearing, the student is subject to the following due process safeguards:

1. The student will receive oral and/or written notice of the charges against him/her.
2. If the student denies the charges, he/she will receive an oral or written explanation of the facts, which form the basis for the proposed suspension.
3. Prior to imposing consequences, the student will receive an opportunity to present his/her version of the incident. A student has the right to bring witnesses forward on his/her behalf.
4. Administration will promptly notify the student's parents or guardian of their actions, the reasons for such action and the right to a hearing before the Board of Directors.
5. Students have the right to have their parents or legal guardians present at a disciplinary hearing but not legal counsel.

After the hearing, the parents/guardians will receive the notice by certified mail and email to the address shown in school records.

### **III. Expulsions**

The Board of Directors is the only governing body within the District, which may expel a student for conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the school or which tends to impair the morale and good conduct of the students. Prior to expelling a student, the parents/guardians must receive notice and a hearing before the Board of Directors. The parents/guardians, or student, if 18 years or older, may waive the expulsion hearing. However, the Board of Directors must make a good faith effort to notify parents/guardians. In all Board of Directors' hearings for expulsions and/or appeals of long-term suspensions, all parties will adhere to the following procedures:

The parent/guardians will receive notification, in writing, of

- a) The charges against the student
- b) Their right to a Board of Directors hearing
- c) The date, time, and place of the hearing
- d) Their right to counsel
- e) Their procedural right to call witnesses, enter exhibits and cross-examine adverse witnesses

After the hearing, the parents/guardians will receive notification by certified mail to the address shown in school records.

2. Prior to the Board of Directors' hearing, Administration will advise the student and the student's parents/guardians of the identity of the administration's witnesses and advise them of the nature of their testimony. In addition, the

- student and student's parents/guardians will receive copies of the documents school administration introduces at the hearing.
3. The hearings are not open to the public unless specified by the Board of Directors. The hearing will only be open to the public with parental consent. At the hearing, Administration or counsel for Administration will present the charges, testimony, and evidence to support such charges. The student, his/her parents/guardians or their counsel shall have the right to present witnesses, introduce exhibits and to cross-examine witnesses called in support of the charges.
  4. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Directors shall deliberate in Executive Session (Closed Session) and render a decision to dismiss the charges, suspend the student for a specified period, or expel the student from the District. Administration or its counsel, by direction of the Board of Directors, shall promptly prepare and transmit to the parents/guardians written notice of the decision. The principal and Superintendent will also receive written notice of the decision.

During any period of suspension (i.e., short, and long-term) or expulsion, students are always prohibited from being on school property. In addition, suspensions and/or expulsions prohibit students from attending and/or participating in any District-sponsored activities on or off school property.

Further, students on suspension for any of the offenses listed under District policy or state law shall have as a condition of his/her suspension, the requirement that the student is not allowed, while on suspension, to be within one thousand (1,000) feet of University Academy unless the student:

- Is under the direct supervision of his/her parent or guardian
- Is under the direct supervision of another adult designated by the student's parent or guardian, in advance, in writing, to the principal of the school which suspended him/her
- Is in an alternative school that is located within one thousand (1,000) feet of a school in the District where the student attended school; or
- Resides within one thousand (1,000) feet of University Academy, in which case he/she may be on the property of his/her residence without direct adult supervision

Any student violating the condition of suspension required pursuant to this section may be subject to further disciplinary action. Consideration of trespassing may affect any student failing to comply, and be subject to arrest, and prosecution. In making such determination, the District shall consider whether the student poses a threat to the safety of any student or school employee and whether the student's unsupervised presence within one thousand (1,000) feet of the school is disruptive of the school's disciplinary policy. Removal of any student with a disability is subject to state and federal procedural rights.

Note: Administrators will discipline students with special needs (i.e., disabilities, IEPs or Section 504 Plans) in accordance with federal and state law, as well as District policy.

### **Restitution**

After notice to, or a conference with the student and parents/guardians, a student may be required to repair, restore, replace, or pay for damaged, vandalized, lost, or stolen school property. Restitution may also include an assignment of work or responsibilities on school premises that are given and served as consequences for violation of the standard of behavior. Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, removing writing from walls, picking up paper from floors and school grounds, removing trays from cafeteria tables, sweeping floors, washing whiteboards, grounds keeping, etc. A member of the school staff must supervise any student who performs restitution. Transportation is the sole responsibility of the parents/guardians.

### **Right to Appeal / Appeal Process**

Parents/guardians may appeal administrative decisions to the Superintendent (or his/her designee). The Superintendent (or his/her designee) will review the matter and render a determination regarding the decision by the appropriate administrator. Parents/guardians may appeal to the Board, any decision by the Superintendent or his/her designee. Imposition of punishment may occur prior to the expiration of the seven (7) day appeal period. Parents/legal guardians have seven (7) days to appeal an administrator's decision. The appeal must be in writing and filed with the Superintendent *within seven (7) calendar days* of notice of the suspension. Failure to file a written appeal within the specified time will constitute a waiver of the right to an appeal.

The parent/guardian may give notice to the Board of Directors that he or she wishes to appeal a long-term suspension. If that occurs, the suspension will not go into effect until the Board of Directors renders its decision, unless the Superintendent determines that the student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the academic process. If that determination occurs, the student faces immediate removal from school and the notice and hearing will follow as soon as possible (167.171(4), RSMo.).

In the event of an appeal, the Superintendent shall promptly transmit to the Board of Directors a full, written report of the facts relating to the long-term suspension, the action taken by the Superintendent and the reasons.

### **Saturday School**

After notice to the parents/guardians and approval of the building administrator, a student may be temporarily detained beyond the length of the regular school day or during regularly scheduled recesses, breaks, or Saturday School. Failure to serve a detention will result in further disciplinary action, which may include an out-of-school suspension.

Middle School students may serve detentions during lunch times. Consequently, Upper School students may receive detention to attend Saturday School for excessive tardiness. This occurs at the principal's discretion.

The Upper School's Saturday School program is a detention extension a student receives for excessive tardiness and/or attendance infractions. Saturday School is a means by which students can rehabilitate their attendance standing. For each hour of Saturday School that a student serves, a reduction of four of the student's cumulative tardies occurs. Students will normally receive a letter advising them of Saturday School assignment. Like the Recovery Room, Saturday School has clear expectations that are consistently enforced. Students who cannot or will not abide by

Saturday School rules or who fail to serve their assigned Saturday School will automatically be assigned at least one (1) day In School Intervention (ISI) to be served the following Monday.

### **Scope of Authority**

The provisions of the Discipline Guidelines may apply in all situations in which students are involved, including:

- activities on school property
- travel on school buses or in any vehicle when that vehicle is used to transport students for the District
- off-site school sponsored activities
- while walking to or from school, waiting for school-provided transportation or
- waiting for, or riding on public transportation to and from school, if the student's conduct is the result or cause of disruptive behavior on school grounds; and
- Any behavior occurring off school property that threatens the safety of students, faculty or disrupts the learning environment

Off-campus misconduct that is not school-related (i.e., electronics, social media, etc.) but which adversely affects the educational climate or materially disrupts the education process may also be subject to school-related disciplinary consequences (i.e., long-term suspension and/or expulsion).

### **Standards of Student Conduct**

University Academy expects all students attending University Academy to display the highest standards of behavior. Students are encouraged and taught to:

- exercise self-control
- demonstrate a positive attitude
- respect the rights and feelings of others
- take responsibility for school property
- support the learning process

### **Student Accountability**

University Academy expects all students attending school to accept the obligation and responsibility to attend school on a regular basis and to comply with University Academy's Discipline Guidelines and Policies. University Academy holds those students who choose not to fulfill their responsibilities at school accountable for their conduct. To provide a safe and positive environment in which students can maximize their learning potential, to discipline students, University Academy will calculate consequences for individual acts of misconduct to deter future misconduct. Students who engage in significant acts of misconduct off campus, which materially and adversely disrupts the education of District students, may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

### **Students' Responsibility for Items in Their Possession**

Students are responsible for any contraband found in their possession. University Academy defines contraband as drugs, weapons, alcohol, and/or other materials deemed illegal or unauthorized under Missouri and Federal law, school board policy, or the Discipline Guidelines and Policies. For purposes of the Discipline Guidelines and Policies, items deemed to be within

a student's possession if the items are found in any of the following places are: student's clothing (i.e., pockets, jackets, shoes, socks, etc.), student's purse/book bag, student's desk, student's locker, and/or student's automobile located on school property.

It is each student's responsibility to check his/her person and personal belongings for possible contraband before entering school property, boarding any school bus going to or returning from school or entering any vehicle when that vehicle is used to transport students for the District and school-sponsored activities. Students may not use cell phones, headphones, or other electronic devices for non-educational purposes during school hours (7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.).

### **Student Use and Care of School Property**

University Academy Board Policy 60: Student Use and Care of School Property states:

“The Board recognizes that acts of destruction, defacing, trespassing, burglary, and theft of school property are contrary to the interests of students, staff, and taxpayers. University Academy school officials will cooperate fully with all law enforcement agencies in the prevention of crimes against school property as well as in the prosecution of persons involved in such conduct.

University Academy will seek restitution from students and other persons who have damaged or destroyed school property. As permitted by law, University Academy will also seek restitution from the parent/guardian of children involved in such misconduct.”

### **Suspension of Computer Privileges or Forfeiture of Access to Computer**

Any student found responsible for misuse or inappropriate network practices may have access privileges suspended for a specific period. This will preclude students from having access to the District mainframe, Internet, or any other network services.

### **Supervision of Students**

Students are always under the supervision of professional staff during school hours and at school-sponsored activities. It is the responsibility of the principal of each school to arrange for adequate

supervision. It is the duty of teachers to perform their assigned supervisory responsibilities. Students are supervised during the school day whether in instructional areas or on the playground.

All school personnel are responsible for the care and supervision of students and hold every student strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on any property of the school. This includes behavior on any school bus going to or returning from school or in any vehicle when that vehicle is the method to transport students for the school during school-sponsored activities or during intermission or recess periods.

If a student damages, destroys, or steals District property, the District will seek restitution.



## **University Academy Foundation**

The University Academy Foundation (UAF) was created in 2010 with the goal of supporting UA students and alumni through their college and career endeavors, while also supporting unique programs and opportunities for UA's K-12 students. Our data shows that programs such as summer sleep-away camps for Middle School students as well as study abroad experiences for Upper School students, leads to greater success in college and beyond. The UA Foundation's unique programs for alumni include cash rewards in college based on meeting GPA benchmarks, career services, summer internship opportunities, college care packages and much more.

### ***UA Foundation's Mission Statement:***

*To facilitate educational programs and opportunities that support college readiness, college completion, and career success for University Academy students and alumni.*

### **Middle School Summer Sleepaway Camp Scholarships**

Every summer the UA Foundation offers the opportunity for Middle School students to apply for full scholarships (valued at \$5,000+) to attend 2- to 4- week summer camps in Minnesota and Colorado. UAF camp partners have a long history of providing quality, safe experiences for children in the outdoors. They emphasize life skills that are necessary for the creation of healthy, productive adults in a setting that is fueled by fun and adventure. UAF Scholarships include full camp tuition and travel.

### **Upper School Study Abroad Scholarships**

Each year, University Academy Foundation provides scholarships to UA high school students to participate in Summer Study Abroad experiences with our exceptional student travel program partners. Through immersive, experiential learning in remote places around the world, these programs foster leadership skills, enhance global understanding, and develop college readiness skills. UAF Scholarships include full program tuition and travel (valued at \$7,000+).

For more information, please visit [www.uafoundationkc.org](http://www.uafoundationkc.org).



UNIVERSITY ACADEMY  
FOUNDATION



**2023-2024**

**University Academy**

**Transportation**

**Handbook**

## **XII. 2023-2024 UNIVERSITY ACADEMY TRANSPORTATION HANDBOOK**

### **Student Transportation Services**

University Academy, in accordance with state law, shall provide free transportation for eligible students. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that the transportation services of University Academy meet all of the guidelines established by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, i.e., Missouri Pupil Transportation Administrative Handbook, Missouri Minimum Standards for School Buses, Missouri Certified Bus Driver Instructor's Manual, and Missouri School Bus Driver Manual, as University Academy's policies and procedures. The contract provider for bus transportation at University Academy is First Student Bus Company.

The safety of University Academy students during their transportation to and from school is a shared responsibility between parents/guardians, school bus drivers, and school officials. Parents should consider the climate of the neighborhoods in which they live or use for their students' transportation pick-up and drop-off location. **If parents believe their neighborhood or other designated pick up/drop off location is unsafe, they should take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of their children while walking to and from the bus stops and/or while waiting for the bus to arrive.**

Bus loading areas are not available to pedestrians, adults, and/or persons without the authority to be on the bus. Missouri State Statute RSMo.569.155 states:

**“A person commits the crime of trespassing on a school bus if he/she knowingly enters any part of, or unlawfully operates, any school bus. Trespass of a school bus is a class A Misdemeanor.”**

Additionally, verbal, or physical abuse, (including threatening, screaming at, cursing, etc.) of bus drivers and/or other students will cause your student to be suspended from riding the bus for a period determined by the Director of Transportation.

All district students are required to follow the school bus rules which are in place to ensure safe transport to/from school and/or school-sponsored activities. **There is no tolerance for a student's failure to adhere to the rules** as it places the driver, other students, and the public at risk of danger.

District staff will enforce the following basic regulations for students riding the bus:

- **Transported students are under the authority of the bus driver.** The bus driver may assign seats. If so, students are to sit in their assigned seats.
- Students may not bring any type of sports balls/and or toys on the bus.
- Students shall be on time for the bus and should arrive at the designated pick up location five (5) minutes prior to the pick-up time.
- Students shall remain seated while the bus is in motion. Students shall not extend hands, arms, or heads through the bus windows or throw objects from the bus windows.
- Students shall not open or close windows without the permission of the driver.
- Students that are bleeding or vomiting may not ride the bus.

- University Academy prohibits fighting, wrestling, or horse playing on the bus.
  - Students shall not bring animals on the bus.
  - Students shall not transport any medication(s) to or from school on the bus.
  - Students shall converse in normal tones; loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
  - Students shall keep the bus clean and refrain from damaging it.
  - Students shall not touch the emergency doors or windows without instruction from the driver or in case of an emergency.
  - When necessary to cross the street, students shall cross in **front** of the bus or as instructed by the bus driver.
  - Students will not intimidate or inflict physical, emotional, or mental harm or have physical contact with another person with the intent to intimidate or to inflict physical, emotional, or mental harm, i.e., bullying (Class IV violation)
  - Students are not to mark/draw/or write on or in any way damage any area of the school bus i.e., vandalize the school bus. (Class III violation)
  - Students shall submit a written request to the Transportation Department from a parent to depart the bus at any location other than his/her assigned route stop. Before the Transportation Department approves the request, staff will verify the information with the parent/guardian.
- ❖ **Note:** If a student causes damage to the school bus, he/she may lose the privilege of riding the bus up to an entire school year and University Academy will seek restitution from parents/ guardians.
- Students shall not bring firearms, weapons, or other potentially hazardous materials on the bus. (Class IV violation)
  - Possible permanent removal of bus privileges applies to any student who has any physical altercation with another student for any reason (Class IV violation).

Bus-riding privileges may be suspended pending non-payment of any outstanding account balances, field trips, technology, etc.

For the safety of our youngest students, **it is imperative that a parent/guardian or adult designee is present at the bus stop to greet Kindergarten/1st grade students.** Kindergarten/1st grade students cannot leave the bus during the afternoon drop-off unless a parent or other adult designee is at the bus stop to meet them. University Academy students in grades 6-12, currently attending UA, may escort Kindergarten/1st grade siblings off the bus if requested on the Transportation Request form.

University Academy became a member of a collaborative group of schools that “tier” bus transportation. Simply stated, we “share” buses with other schools. Those schools do not have the same start/end schedule as UA and start and end later. Therefore, if no adult is at the student’s assigned bus stop to meet him or her at the end of the school day, the student will **NOT** return to University Academy. That student will remain on the bus and ride to the next tiered, routed stop to one of the other schools. The first call to a parent informing them that their student is on their way to a tiered school, the student’s parent/guardian will receive a warning letter. A second occurrence will result in the student’s suspension off the bus for the remainder of the semester. This policy also includes any occurrence where a student refuses to disembark (leave) the bus. Bus drivers will **NOT** double-back to return to the student’s assigned bus stop.

**University Academy does not allow dual bus stops based on joint custody of children** nor for any other reason.

### **A Note Regarding Student Bus Data**

University Academy will provide updated general data to First Student Bus Company upon request. This will be in electronic format and will only contain reference to a student's name, grade, address, telephone number, and secondary or emergency contact information.

### **Bus Status**

For information on the status of a bus (location, late arrival, etc.), parents or guardians should contact First Student at 816.254.5262. Additionally, University Academy now offers a free bus-tracking app called "First View." First View is an app that allows you to track the arrival time of your student's bus. Parents can reach out to First Student Customer Service at 816-254-5262 for further assistance."

### **Changes in Routes or Stops**

University Academy works *with* the bus company to establish new stops when necessary. If the need develops for any changes to a designated bus route or stop, the parents/guardians must submit a new transportation request. The bus transportation contractor reviews and assigns changes to existing routes within ten (10) business days. All transportation requests submitted due to an address change require proof of residency and parents/guardians must contact Kellie Brady, [bradyk@universityacademy.org](mailto:bradyk@universityacademy.org). Once the school receives proof of residency, transportation changes will be processed. If you need to update your student's transportation address please reach out to the Transportation Department via email [johnsonk@universityacademy.org](mailto:johnsonk@universityacademy.org).

**There will be no changes made to bus routes during the first two (2) weeks school or the last month of school (May).** University Academy does not create nor add short-term, temporary bus stops to routes.

If changes to any bus routes occur, the bus company will provide copies of route changes to University Academy. Parents will receive the updated route information in writing or via email.

### **Communications**

**School Cancellation/Inclement Weather:** School cancellations will appear on Kansas City's primary media stations, FOX-4, KCTV-5, KMBC-9, and KSHB-41, as well as the school's website. Each student will receive notification to the telephone number of record. Please make sure the school has your current contact information throughout the school year so you will receive cancellation notifications from the school.

**School Cancellation/Other:** The Superintendent of University Academy or his/her designee will notify families of any inclement weather or other emergency school cancellation as soon as possible via the phone number of record for students.

### **Eligibility for District-Provided Transportation**

University Academy provides free school bus transportation to its students based on the following criteria:

Only students living one (1) mile or more from the school are eligible for transportation. Transportation is not available to any location within one (1) mile of the school, including childcare facilities.

Bus-riding privileges may be suspended pending payment of any outstanding account balances, field trips, technology, etc.

### **Foster Homes / Emergency Shelters / Homeless**

If parents/guardians find their family in any of these situations, they should contact the school's Director of Student Services, Mrs. Brianne Phillips, at 816.412.5956 for assistance. Upon request from the Director of Student Services, he/she may schedule transportation to assure students are able to get to and from school.

### **Inclement Weather**

School buses will make every attempt to adhere to established routes during inclement weather. In instances where access to a routed stop poses a threat to the safety of all students on board (i.e. ice-covered steep incline), students will be dropped off at the safest location nearest the designated route stop. University Academy will contact parents of students who have approved special transportation accommodations with drop-off information so parents can arrange for pick-up of their student.

### **Medical Emergency Transportation**

Parents are responsible for arranging transportation for their student in the event the student becomes ill during the school day. School bus services are not available for this purpose.

### **New Students**

All new students wishing to use school-provided transportation must complete the Transportation Request form online. First Student makes every effort to assign new students/bus riders to existing bus stops when possible. If there is no stop available within four (4) blocks, creation of a new stop will occur within ten (10) business days. Until that happens, the parent/guardian is responsible for their student's transportation to and from school.

### **Notice of Changes in Regular Dismissal Plan for bus riders**

When a student will not ride the bus home as is their regular routine, parents/guardians must contact the school office no later than 12:00 noon. **Parents/guardians MUST contact their student's school office for this one-time change to occur.** When picking the student up, parents/guardians are to report to the Central Administration Office to receive their student(s). **Parents/guardians are *NOT* to go to the bus loading area to retrieve students.** A student may not retrieve his/her sibling from the bus during dismissal. Parents should arrange in advance, if a student is not to ride the bus in the afternoon, making every effort to notify the student's school office no later than 12:00 p.m.

Parents/guardians must submit written requests to the Transportation Department for students to ride an alternate route, i.e., to ride with a friend or relative, for a **one-time** occasion. No student may ride a different bus route without confirmation of the request by parent/guardian and approval from the Transportation Department. Parents/guardians who knowingly board their student(s) on a route not assigned to them will result in their student(s) receiving a five (5) day bus suspension.

### **Routing**

**Requests for Transportation:** Parents/guardians must submit a Request for Transportation each year for any student that will use school-provided bus service via the school's website. Parents/guardians must submit the form electronically. It is available on our website, [www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org). **Students without a transportation request on file may not ride the bus to or from school.**

### **School Bus Accidents**

The handling and management of school bus-related accidents and incidents is particularly important and treated with priority by all staff. The bus company will dispatch The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department to the site of a school bus accident. An ambulance will transport students to the nearest hospital if they sustain injuries that require medical attention. The Kansas City, Missouri Police Department or other appropriate medical personnel at the scene will diagnose all injuries. Drivers are not qualified to make medical determinations. Students who believe they have an injury should notify the proper authority at the scene of the accident in order to be properly treated. The school will notify the parents of school bus accidents. Once released by investigating authorities, non-injured students will return to/from the school.

### **School Contact**

University Academy provides a contact person for one (1) hour after the school buses depart to assist with questions from parents.

### **Special Needs and Circumstances**

University Academy will provide transportation accommodations as outlined in the IEPs of applicable students. Students with a documented medical condition that prevents them from walking the required distance to the nearest bus stop may qualify for special transportation accommodations. (Note: A documented condition is verifiable by physician signature and specifically notes the student's inability to walk the required distance.) The Special Education Process Coordinator will evaluate all special transportation requests to determine eligibility based on Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If granted, special transportation accommodations are valid for one (1) school year. Parents/guardians must submit Special Transportation Requests annually. Parents may obtain the Special Transportation Request form on the school's website, [www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org) at the bottom of the Transportation page.

### **Suspended/Canceled Route Stops**

If no students are at a stop for five (5) consecutive days, removal of the stop will occur. Parents may request to reinstate the stop by submitting a new transportation request that may take up to ten (10) business days.



### **Timeframe for Routing New Stops**

The contract transportation provider develops routes with student safety, efficiency, and economy as the controlling factors. The creation of bus routes is a result of the home and/or transportation addresses provided by the parent/guardian who completed the Transportation Request. If there is no established stop within four (4) blocks of a student's transportation address, the bus company will add a new route, when necessary.

- Students who are eligible for transportation will not walk more than four (4) blocks to/from their bus stop location.
- **If you relocate to a new home after the completion of your SY23-24 transportation application submission, it is the parent/guardian's responsibility to contact the transportation department [johnsonk@universityacademy.org](mailto:johnsonk@universityacademy.org) and update your student's transportation address; otherwise the address entered into SchoolMint will be the address the student will be assigned to.**

## **2023-2024 University Academy School Bus Conduct and Discipline Guidelines**

Additional information:

- It is strongly encouraged that members of the same family sit together on the bus

### **School Bus Conduct & Discipline**

Students, parents/guardians, bus drivers and school officials must all work together to provide for the safe transportation of students. Students or parents/guardians who fail to observe District rules or fail to contribute to a safe transportation environment will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension of the privilege of riding the bus. In the event of any class violation on the bus, the driver shall submit, in writing, a statement of the incident (Conduct Card) by the next school day. Conduct Cards are notifications of bus misconduct by a student.

The principal/designee will review the conduct card and act pursuant to school policy. Administration will apprise the parent/guardian and the bus company of any disciplinary action. Parents/guardians will receive notification of bus suspensions indicating the suspension period and the date the student may resume riding the bus. All bus suspensions include field trips and extra-curricular trips of any type.

All District students and parents/guardians are required to follow the school bus rules, which are in place to ensure safe transport to/from school and/or school-sponsored activities. **There is no tolerance for a student's failure to adhere to the rules** as it places the driver, other students, and the public at risk of danger.

Bus loading areas are not available to pedestrians, adults, and/or persons without the authority to be on the bus. **Parents may NOT board school buses for any reason, including retrieving**

**students from the bus loading/unloading area.**

Any parent or guardian, who boards a school bus to speak with the driver and/or students, commits the crime of trespass. Missouri State Statute RSMo.569.155 states:

**“A person commits the crime of trespassing on a school bus if he/she knowingly enters any part of or unlawfully operates any school bus. Trespass of a school bus is a Class A misdemeanor.”**

Violation of this policy may result in a complaint being filed with the appropriate law enforcement agency and **will** result in suspension or expulsion of the student’s bus riding privileges. Please contact the Transportation Department at University Academy to inquire and voice concerns for resolution of any issues.

Students who continue to display a pattern of dangerous or inappropriate behavior on school buses are subject to long-term suspension of riding privileges as noted below:

### **Class I Bus Violations:**

- Disobeying bus driver rules
- Being rude to bus driver or other students
- Not staying in seat while bus is in motion; failure to listen to bus driver warning
- Cursing or being excessively loud; failure to listen to driver warning
- Littering on the bus

### **Class I Bus Consequences:**

<b>K-2</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Upper School</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: Warning	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: Warning	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: Warning	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: 5-day bus suspension	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: 10-day bus suspension	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: 30-day bus suspension	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: 30-day bus suspension
3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation: 10-day bus suspension	3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation: 30-day bus suspension	3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension	3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension
4 <sup>th</sup> Violation: 30-day bus suspension	4 <sup>th</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension		
5 <sup>th</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension			

Footballs / basketballs / baseballs / softballs / soccer balls or any other types of balls are **NOT** permitted on the bus!

### Class II Bus Violations:

- Fighting/horseplay while on the bus
- Extending hands, arms, or head through bus windows
- Throwing objects on the bus or out of the windows
- Possessing weapons, dangerous materials, drugs
- Inappropriate use of personal technology
- Bullying/threatening other students
- Stealing
- Vandalism (drawing/marketing/writing on bus; damaging seats/windows/walls of bus)
- Sexual misconduct
- Dangerous or inappropriate behavior

### Class II Bus Consequences:

K-2	3-5	Middle School	Upper School
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: 5-day bus suspension	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: 10-day bus suspension	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: Minimum 10-to 30-day bus suspension	1 <sup>st</sup> Violation: Minimum 10-to 30-day bus suspension
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: 10-day bus suspension	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: 30-day bus suspension	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension, including Summer School	2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension, including Summer School
3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation: 30- day bus suspension, including Summer School	3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation: Remainder of year bus suspension, including Summer School		
4 <sup>th</sup> Violation: Remainder of the year bus suspension, including Summer School			
The above offenses may include In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, referral for a discipline hearing, and/or law enforcement.			

Footballs / basketballs / baseballs / softballs / soccer or any other types of balls are **NOT** permitted on the bus!

## **Transportation Service Complaints**

Parents/guardians should report complaints to the School Operations Manager on the schools website under Helpful Links (Report Bus Questions/Concerns). Upon receipt, the School Operations Manager will forward the complaint to the appropriate individual for review and action.

Parents/guardians who would like to report incidents that occur on the bus (i.e. driver misconduct, student misconduct---bullying, harassment, etc.) should submit a complaint on the school's website [www.universityacademy.org](http://www.universityacademy.org). Locate the "Helpful Links" area near the bottom of the webpage and click on "Report Bus Questions/Concerns."

Bus Transportation is not guaranteed-Parents need to have a backup plan in case the buses fail to run or a student misses a bus or your student is on bus suspension, etc.

## **No Show Bus Form SY23-24**

Parents/guardians please complete this bus form each time your bus does not show up to your students assigned bus stop. You can also find the link on the school website under "Helpful Links".

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgmAbefLdn3gPkGdGigvYOEe8EHazKY-BMjRNzozYVLfiWVg/viewform>

## **AM No Show Bus Process-**

If your bus is more than 10 minutes late, please reach out to FS dispatch at 816-723-9043 to check on the bus status. You also may have access to the FirstView student GPS system to verify where the bus is in their route. If the bus doesn't show or you receive a message from school regarding the bus not running, please follow the below process:

- Send your student home.
- Fill out the No Show Bus Form google doc and a representative from school will reach out to you to verify an estimated time of arrival at your home address.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1yZabjcwGp3W3Z4Gq2m-6Q4VgVs6jxqyXhWPKkomxPrM/edit>
- Have students watch for a white or gray van from UA. A licensed UA driver will pick them up and transport them to school.

If this option isn't available to you, you can drop your student off at school at 6:45am in the morning and notify the Safety and Security Officer working the entry what bus # you are that didn't show. SSO's will allow students to enter and go to the cafeteria or small gym depending on their grade level.

Parents are responsible for transportation of their students to and from school. Our goal at UA is to support parents who need assistance by providing a free bus service through an outside

vendor. We do not control when the buses run, but notify parents via automated calls within 5 minutes of being notified a bus won't run that day. Please partner with us to help your child get to school.

### **PM No Show Bus Process-**

When a bus does not run a PM route, we notify parents via automated calls within 5 minutes of being notified a bus won't run that day. Please partner with us to help your child get home from school. MS and US students are allowed to call and notify parents when we have that information announced over the intercom.

- Students on non running buses are sent to the Theater to await parent pick up.
- Parents who are able, are asked to arrange a ride for their student. Parents can pull through the main drive just like PPU parents do and give their student's NAME and BUS NUMBER to the CurbSmart Administrator. That Administrator will call in to the Theater to have them released to the front drive to get in your vehicle.
- Parents who absolutely have no transportation or options for others to pick up their students MAY be able to get school transportation. The school has 4 vans that are also used for after school activities regularly. IF WE HAVE AVAILABILITY, we will create a PM route to get students home who may not have a ride that day. If your student qualifies for this service (All McKinney Vento students qualify) we will notify you of the availability when we make the automated call.
- After 2:55pm, parents will need to park and come into the building to get their students.
- Parents also have the option to pick up bus students early between 2:00 and 2:25 if their bus is not running a PM route.
- Students who are here after 3:30 are sent up to the main office to wait with security. Parents can pick them up there.
- Students can be picked up as late as 5:30 with no penalty. Students not picked up by 5:30 will be subject to the handbook policy regarding late pick-ups.

Parents are responsible for transportation of their students to and from school. Our goal at UA is to support parents who need assistance by providing a bus through an outside vendor. We do not control when the buses run.

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS REGULARLY UPDATE ANY PHONE NUMBERS OR ADDRESSES IN POWERSCHOOL AND COMMUNICATE BUS CHANGE REQUESTS WITH MS. JOHNSON IMMEDIATELY.