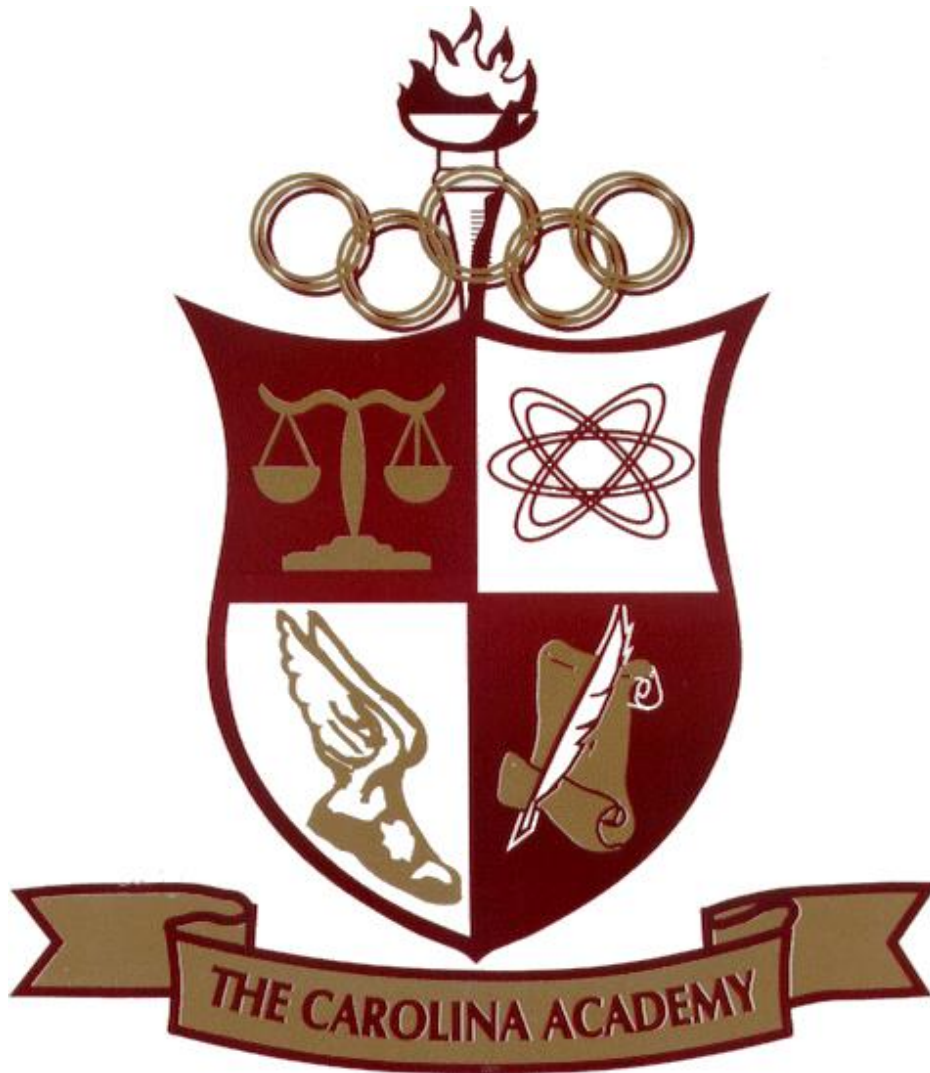


# THE CAROLINA ACADEMY



## PARENT / STUDENT HANDBOOK 2024 - 2025

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
School Calendar	2
Faculty and Staff	3
Class Bell Schedule	4
TCA Missions Statement / TCA Philosophy	5
TCA Goals / Admissions Statement	6
Legal, Medical, Kindergarten, Policies and Procedures, Student Responsibilities	7
Honor System, Guidance Services	8-17
Media Services	18
General Information, Attendance, Tardies, and Senior Responsibilities	19-25
Athletics	25-27
Student Activities and School Support Groups	27-29
Elementary Discipline Rules	30-33
Discipline Code	34-41
Dress Code	41-42
Cell Phone Policy and Other Electronic Device	43
Technology Usage Information	44-49
Bullying Form (HIB)	50
Computer and Internet Use Agreement	51
Student Code of Conduct	52
Handbook Agreement	53

**The Carolina Academy holds advanced accreditation by the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA).**

The Carolina Academy is a member of and accredited by the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA). TCA meets the requirements and standards of "Cognia" and was last accredited in November 2023. This accreditation will expire in June of 2028.

The South Carolina Independent School Association has partnered with Cognia to give member schools an opportunity to meet their criteria for accreditation. Cognia is dedicated to advancing excellence in education worldwide. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) is an accreditation division of Cognia and recognized in South Carolina. The Carolina Academy has met the requirements established by the Cognia Accreditation Commission and Board of Trustees is hereby accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

***\*\*Information contained within this Handbook was created based on information available at the time of publication and is subject to change.***

## 2024-2025 FACULTY & STAFF

Stevie Phillips	Head of School
David Rankin	Assistant Head of School, Athletic Director, Head Football Coach
Kim Poston	Guidance Counselor, Director of Academics
Donna Lynch	Literacy Coach, Library
Lisa Malone	Administrative Assistant, Athletic Secretary
Brandy Harrington	Finance Administrator, Attendance
Susan Evans	Finance Secretary
Carlie Baxley	School Nurse
Michelle Welch	Resource Instructor, 5 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science
Gina Lamb	Reading Interventionist
Jenny Carter	2K Teacher
Chelsie Nicholson	2K Assistant
Elizabeth Vargas	2K Assistant
Maggie McElveen	3K Teacher
Ramona Ortiz	3K Teacher Assistant
Kathy Parrott	3K Teacher
Linda Thigpen	3K Assistant Teacher
Maci Gause	4K Teacher
Trena Sims	4K Assistant Teacher
Kellie Alban	4K Teacher
Courtney Grimsley	4K Assistant Teacher
Ann Poston	5K Teacher
Carrie Davis	5K Teacher
Kellie Danner	5K Assistant Teacher
Julie Weaver	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
Austin Johnson	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher
Traci Watts	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher
Haven Sheffield	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade—ELA and Social Studies
Megan McElveen	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade--Math and Science
Jocelyn Calcutt	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Gail Smith	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grades-- ELA
Paula Reddeck	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grades-- Math
Josh Lee	5 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies
Pam Graham	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade US History, and 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade World History
Kimberly Harrell	Algebra I Honors
Shawn McDaniel	Algebra III and Pre-Calculus
Trey Parker	Pre-Algebra and Algebra I
Jillian Poston	Geometry and Algebra II
Joey McDaniel	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science, Biology, and Anatomy
Cheri Turbeville	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science, Biology, and Chemistry
Belinda Cobb	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, High School English
Johnny Stephens	High School English, Journalism
Jason Floyd	IT Director, and Computer II
Traci Weaver	Keyboarding and Personal Finance
Obed Ortez	Spanish I, Spanish II, and Spanish III
Matthew Joye	3K –7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Education
Sherri Moore	Government & Economics and Geography
Mary Wallace Phillips	Medical Terminology and Anatomy & Human Disease
Ira Barrineau	Elementary Music
Celeste Altman	Art
Emily Matthews	Cafeteria
Beth Collins	Cafeteria
Heather McElveen	Cafeteria
Johnny Caldwell	Head Custodian
James Epps	Firefighter

**HOMEROOMS  
CLASS TIME SCHEDULE**

**High School Bell Schedule - Grades 8 - 12**

Arrival	8:00 – 8:05
Homeroom	8:05 - 8:12
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:15 - 9:09
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:12 - 10:05
BREAK	10:05 – 10:20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:23 - 11:16
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	11:19 - 12:12
LUNCH	12:12 – 12:42
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:45 - 1:39
6 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:42 - 2:40

**Middle School Bell Schedule - Grades 5, 6, and 7**

Arrival Time	8:00 – 8:05
Homeroom	8:05 – 8:12
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:15 – 9:16
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:19 – 10:20
BREAK	10:20 – 10:35
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	10:38 – 11:35
LUNCH	11:38 – 12:08
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:10 – 1:15
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	1:18 - 2:18
Prepare for dismissal	2:18 – 2:25

<b><u>School Dismissal</u></b>	<b><u>Times</u></b>	<b><u>Pick Up Locations</u></b>
K2 – K5	1:40	
Grades 1 - 4	2:15	
Grades 5 - 7	2:25	
Grades 8 - 12	2:40	

*\*\*After School Care students will go directly to the After-Care room when dismissed*

*\*\*Students that are dismissed and wait on older sibling to dismiss will report to Media Center until older sibling picks up*

**Lunch Schedule**

1 <sup>st</sup> Lunch	Grades K2-K4 (in classroom)	10:30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch	Grades 5K – 2 (in cafeteria)	11:00 - 11:30
	Grades 3 – 4 (in cafeteria)	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Lunch	Grades 5 – 7 (in cafeteria, outside)	11:38 - 12:08
4 <sup>th</sup> Lunch	Grade 8 (in cafeteria, outside)	12:12 - 12:42
	Grades 9 – 12 (in cafeteria, outside)	

## **THE CAROLINA ACADEMY**

**The Carolina Academy is an independent, college preparatory, non-sectarian day school for students in kindergarten (K-2, K-3, K-4, & K-5) through twelfth grade. TCA does not discriminate based on sex, race, color, religion or national origin in the administration of its educational program, admission policies, employment practices, or other school administered program. Carolina Academy believes that the goal of education is to promote learning and personal growth.**

The primary purpose of this handbook is to give the students and parents a general overview of the rules, regulations, and guidelines of The Carolina Academy. We believe that this information can be extremely helpful in providing the necessary structure that will be beneficial throughout the school year.

This general information booklet will not answer all questions concerning the school's program. There may be instances where parents and/or students will want to know more about a specific rule, regulation, or policy. This can be achieved by referring to the Board Policy Manual available through written request to the board chairman.

It should be noted that parents/students have the right to appeal administrative decisions to the Board of Directors. Appeals should be in writing to the board and will become a part of the student's record. If a visitation is desired, the party should make a written request and the board chairman will then give a date and time to appear.

### **THE CAROLINA ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT**

The Carolina Academy, working collaboratively with all stakeholders – students, families, and community – will provide a safe, secure learning environment and innovative educational experiences that will empower our students to achieve excellence and accept responsibility for their lives, their learning, and the world in which they live. As we seek to follow Christ and grow leaders, the faculty and staff of The Carolina Academy are committed to equipping our students with knowledge, skills, and perseverance needed to become problem solvers and life-changers. We challenge our students to view work as worship, seeking excellence in everything they do for the glory of God.

### **PHILOSOPHY OF THE CAROLINA ACADEMY**

We, the staff of The Carolina Academy, realize that we have the challenging responsibility of striving to meet the diverse intellectual, moral, social, and physical needs of students in grades kindergarten through twelve. This unique task requires that we offer a curriculum which expands the learning process from kindergarten through high school. Therefore, we seek to provide an educational program promoting human growth and development.

- \* We believe in providing students with the opportunity to develop self-discipline, self-reliance, self-respect and a sense of responsibility in an effort to lead them to a better understanding and realization of their potential.
- \* Within the framework of a sound academic program, our curriculum must also provide experiences for aesthetic growth, physical fitness, counseling, guidance, and extra-curricular activities.
- \* As educators we are aware that knowledge is constantly being expanded. We should keep ourselves informed of new methods and trends and be willing to adapt our programs to benefit the various levels of student growth.
- \* It is recognized that parents and the community should participate in the educational process. The cooperation and efforts of these groups will result in growth of citizens capable of meeting the challenge of our changing society.

## THE CAROLINA ACADEMY GOALS

To meet the diverse needs of students at The Carolina Academy, we pursue the following goals:

1. To provide a stimulating learning environment for acquiring a basic body of knowledge in the various disciplines.
2. To provide individualized work within the framework of the regular classroom that promotes immediate remediation or enrichment.
3. To lead students in moral growth by example and instruction.
4. To assist the student in developing the ability to exercise self-discipline and good judgment in various situations.
5. To encourage a desire for truth and knowledge.
6. To instill respect for oneself and for all people.
7. To teach students to communicate effectively and to foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
8. To provide opportunities for students to participate in classroom and extra-curricular activities which foster leadership, responsibility, and possibilities for future growth.
9. To offer physical education and extra-curricular athletic programs that teach fundamental skills, promote good sportsmanship, teamwork, and foster a positive attitude toward total fitness and leisure time activities.
10. To encourage appreciation of music, art, literature, and the beauty of nature.
11. To evaluate students' progress in their academic preparation and progression.
12. To encourage effective health and safety habits.
13. To establish and maintain cooperation and understanding between parents, school, and community members.
14. To provide counseling and guidance for personal and academic problems.

## ADMISSION STATEMENT

The Carolina Academy admits students of any race, color, creed, sex, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration and educational policies, admission policies, athletic and other school administered programs. Carolina Academy reserves the right to reject any applications for admission or employment and further reserves the right to terminate any association with students or employees if it determines that such association is incompatible with the aims and purposes of the Academy. With limited size, new students are contacted for possible admission according to the date the application was made. Carolina Academy seeks to attract students who are interested in achieving their full growth intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially. All students must have immunization forms, etc. Standardized test scores or readiness results are required if a student did not attend Carolina Academy. The application process is relatively simple, and we accept applications at any time. Before a student is considered for admissions, the application file should be complete with the following items:

- \* **Completed application.**
- \* **Enrollment fee (fee is non-refundable unless the school does not offer the student a position)**
- \* **Copy of most recent standardized test results**
- \* **Transcript, Attendance, Disciplinary and Psychological Data**
- \* **Appointment for interview (grades 7-12)**

To streamline the process of enrollment and re-enrollment, tuition management, and incidental billing, The Carolina Academy is using **FACTS**. This system is designed for families to complete the enrollment process, pay tuition and lunch, as well as keep up with student's classes, grades, attendance, and discipline records. Each family has a **FACTS Family Portal** that can be accessed anytime and is updated in real time. Please utilize the system and check the family portal for updates and information. A link to the Family Portal can be found on the school website.

## **LEGAL CUSTODY DOCUMENTATION**

In cases involving court-ordered custody of children, schools must have on file the appropriate State of South Carolina Court Documentation of Custody. This ensures compliance with any limiting court orders. Parents/Guardians are responsible for providing The Carolina Academy with such copies.

**DSS and Police Interview Authority:** The Carolina Academy must by law allow a student to be interviewed while at school.

## **STUDENT MEDICAL / EMERGENCY**

**Parents/Guardians are required to update student(s) medical information every year.** It is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian to inform the office in writing of any known allergies, long term illnesses and medications, any relevant medical information and or changes pertaining to your child. Parent/Guardian are asked to sign a medical treatment consent form in case of emergency and school personnel are unable to make immediate contact with parent/guardian.

ALL MEDICINES MUST BE REGISTERED IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE, IN THE ORIGINAL BOTTLE WITH NAME AND INSTRUCTIONS. IT IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO SIGN IN WITH THE SECRETARY TO RECEIVE MEDICINE AT THE DESIGNATED TIME.

## **K-2, K-3, K-4, K-5 (KINDERGARTEN), AND FIRST GRADE ENROLLMENT**

It is the policy of Carolina Academy that all K-2, K-3, K-4, K-5 and FIRST GRADE students must be two, three, four, five or six years old, respectively, on or before **September 1<sup>st</sup>** prior to enrollment unless the Board of Directors rules otherwise. All K-2, K-3, K-4, K-5 and first grade students must have immunization forms, a birth certificate, and social security card as required by law. All pre-school (K-2, K-3, K-4) and daycare students are required by South Carolina Department of Social Services Child Care Regulatory Services to complete a General Record and Statement of Child's Health for admission to a childcare facility form, we have these forms in the school office.

**POTTY TRAINING POLICY:** A student may not attend K-3, K4, K5 unless they are potty trained. This involves using the potty on their own as well as cleaning themselves. If there is an "accident", we must have a change of clothing on hand. If a child cannot change themselves a parent or caregiver will be notified.

## **THE CAROLINA ACADEMY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

It is understood that attendance at The Carolina Academy is a privilege and not a right. This privilege may be forfeited by any student or parent who does not conform to the standards and regulations of the institution. The school may request withdrawal of any student at any time who does not fit the spirit of TCA or whose general attitude or habitual actions are contrary to the best interest of the school.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

(That governs all the other rules in this book).

1. To attend school, be on time, and be prepared with all materials needed.
2. To participate in prayer and pledge during all TCA activities.
3. To never stop a teacher from teaching or another student from learning.
4. To come to school properly dressed according to our dress code.
5. To treat all people and property with respect
6. To never bring any item on campus that might endanger self or others.
7. To get involved in clubs and activities.
8. To keep your parents informed about your education, including your grades, your homework, and your activities at school.

## **THE HONOR SYSTEM**

The Carolina Academy believes in the spirit of truth, honesty and integrity. To maintain these values, the school must insist that the students recognize their obligation to adhere to the standards of Carolina Academy. Moreover, it is the student's responsibility to:

- \*Report any instance in which the student has knowledge that academic conduct which violates this policy, or its spirit has taken place to the faculty member responsible for instruction.
- \*Understand the types of conduct that are deemed unacceptable and therefore, are prohibited by this policy.
- \*Refrain from committing any act of cheating, plagiarizing, facilitating academic dishonesty, abusing academic materials, stealing or lying.

**The Honor Code will be posted in each classroom:**

### **Carolina Academy Honor Code**

- A Carolina Academy student will not Lie.
- A Carolina Academy student will not Steal.
- A Carolina Academy student will not Cheat.
- A Carolina Academy student will not tolerate those who do.

## **GUIDANCE INFORMATION**

Even though every faculty member is responsible for providing some counseling to our students, TCA provides a counselor who will coordinate and be available for the more structural part of our guidance program. The guidance program provides support in the areas of academic, career and personal social needs to students. The counselor also serves as a liaison between parents and teachers and can arrange conferences when necessary.

Counseling services are an important part of a student's schooling; consequently, TCA will do everything possible to make this program available to all students. High school students work closely with the counselor on course selection and the college application process. Students may be counseled about academic matters (course selections, colleges and universities, financial aid, etc.) or personal matters by contacting their counselor.

**Students should follow these procedures when using counseling services:**

1. Whenever possible, make an appointment in advance to talk with the counselor. Every attempt should be made to schedule appointments during break or lunch periods, before or after school.
2. Inform the teacher before coming to the counselor's office.

## **COURSE REGISTRATION**

Registration for courses is a time when major decisions are made; consequently, the student (with the guidance of parents and his/her counselor) should make every effort to make wise choices.

1. The spring of each year, students and parents in Grades 8-11 will have the opportunity to be involved in course selection for the upcoming school year.
2. Once schedules have been printed, students may not request changes except for the following reasons:
  - a. When credit is needed for graduation
  - b. When credit has been earned in summer school.
  - c. When a student has not passed the pre-requisite for the next course.
3. Students enrolled in courses at the academy may adjust their schedules through the drop/add period provided for in the TCA Calendar (the first 10 days of a year-long course and first 5 days of semester course). To facilitate this process, requests will be made to the guidance counselor. Approvals for the dropped class and the class that is to be added must be made by the school administrator and guidance counselor. The SC Uniform Grading Scale policy states a student who drops a class after the 10-day period will receive a "WF" for the class.



## **SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

The student must earn a total of twenty-four (24) units of credit as follows:

English language arts	4.0
mathematics	4.0
science	3.0
U.S. History and Constitution	1.0
economics	0.5
U.S. Government	0.5
other social studies	1.0
physical education or Junior ROTC	1.0
computer science	1.0
foreign language or career and technology education	1.0
electives	7.0
	-----
	24.0 total

## **COLLEGE PREPARATORY / DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

College bound students are encouraged to select a program of study that will prepare them for success in college and satisfy requirements established by the S.C. Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for enrollment in baccalaureate degree programs in state colleges and universities. A recommendation for the program of studies includes completion of the following:

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

- 4 units English
- 4 units Math
- 3 units Social Studies (U.S. History, World History, Government/Economics)
- 4 units Science
- 1 unit Physical Education
- 2 units of same Foreign Language (3 units are strongly recommended)
- 1 unit Computer Science (CHE recommended for college admission)
- 1 unit of either Art Appreciation, Music, or Speech and Drama (CHE recommended electives)
- 5 units Electives

## **ENGLISH AND MATH HONORS PROGRAMS**

To be accepted into the Honors Program a student must meet two of the three requirements:

- 1 – A score in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or greater on the Iowa Assessment in the subject area being considered
- 2 – At least a 90 average at the end of the seventh grade in the subject area being considered
- 3 – Committee recommendation

Once a student is accepted into an honors class, he/she must maintain an average of 80 or higher to remain in honors class. Students enrolled in an **Honors Program** course on a **probation status**, may drop the honors class for participation in the CP course for their grade level. This schedule adjustment can be made at the end of the first grading period with parent request and approval from the headmaster and guidance.

**Below is an outline of our Honors and College Preparatory programs:**

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<b>HONORS PROGRAM</b>	<b>COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM</b>
8th	English I	Language Arts
9th	English II	English I
10th	English III	English II
11th	English IV	English III
12th	English 101/102	English IV

<u>MATH</u>	<b>HONORS PROGRAM</b>	<b>COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM</b>
8th	Honors Algebra I	Pre-Algebra
9th	Honors Geometry	Algebra I
10th	Honors Algebra II	Geometry
11th	Pre-Calculus Honors	Algebra II
12th	Dual Enrollment Math	Algebra III

<u>SCIENCE</u>	<b>HONORS PROGRAM</b>	<b>COLLEGE PREP PROGRAM</b>
8 <sup>TH</sup>		Earth Science
9 <sup>th</sup>	Biology I Honors	Biology I
10 <sup>th</sup>	Chemistry I Honors	Chemistry I
11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	Anatomy Honors	Chemistry II

Class schedules: Ninth or tenth grade students who want to enter the Honors Program and are eligible will be allowed to do so, but with the understanding that class schedules will not be altered. If the student is unable to take a required course that is being offered at the same time as an Honors course, it will be his/her responsibility to take the class in summer school or in the following year.

To stay in Honors courses, a student must maintain a “B” semester average or be placed on probation for the remainder of the year. Parents will be notified by letter - it should be signed and returned. If the student fails to earn a “B” at the end of the probation period, he/she will be placed in a regular level class the next year.

**CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL**

Each year of High School (Grades 9-12) students can earn units of credit for courses taken. Students are classified by grade according to the number of units earned from year to year. To advance to the next grade level, a student must attain the following units: **Carnegie units of courses in middle school will count toward the GPA.**

From 9th to 10th grade - minimum of 5 units (including one English and one Math)

From 10th to 11th grade -minimum of 11 units (including two English units and two Math units)

From 11th to 12th grade - minimum of 17 units (including three units of English and three math units)

**A student must have 24 units for a SC High School Diploma.** Students are assigned to homerooms according to grade level and number of units earned.

**Students in grades 1-7** must, at the end of the year, have a grade average of 70 or above to advance to the next grade level. The final grades are averaged at the years’ end to make this decision.

**Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade** must, at the end of the year, have an average of 60 or above to advance to the next grade level. The final grades are averaged at the end of the year to make this decision.

**SUMMER SCHOOL**

Carolina Academy will not accept summer school credit from public schools in the area or private schools unless previously approved by the Head of School and the Board of Directors following one year of enrollment at the academy. Carolina Academy will offer summer schoolwork only when the group interested will financially support the course. The amount of the fee must be paid in full to The Carolina Academy prior to the course.

## **LEARNING RESOURCE PROGRAM**

The Resource Program at The Carolina Academy is available to students at no additional cost. Students in the Learning Resource program will be governed by the following statements:

1. All students receiving additional academic help from the resource teacher should have a diagnosed learning problem which prevents him/her from performing at his/her highest performance level in the classroom. **An evaluation must be administered by a Florence County School District III School Psychologist to determine eligibility for services.**
2. All students receiving resource services should have a Bobcat Plan put in place after being tested. The Bobcat Plan is a clear guideline for regular classroom teachers and the resource teacher to work together to ensure resource students are offered the appropriate assistance they need to succeed. The plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.
3. Students in the program may receive additional help from classroom teachers on subject area assignments based on the accommodations listed in the Bobcat Plan. Classroom teachers may request the resource teacher to administer tests, provide study guides for homework or classroom assignments, etc. based on the accommodations listed in the Bobcat Plan.

### **South Carolina Virtual School:**

**Any courses taken for graduation credit will be taken through The Carolina Academy's curriculum,** unless otherwise approved by the administration, due to a scheduling conflict based on academic tracking or for credit recovery of a course taken at the academy. It must be determined by the administration that the dropping or adding of a subject is in the best interest of the student and the school. Students must receive approval to take classes through the South Carolina Virtual School.

### **Dual Credit Academic Policy:**

The Carolina Academy, through Florence Darlington Technical College and Francis Marion University, offers a selection of Dual Credit courses while still enrolled as a full-time student at TCA.

### **Criteria for Enrollment:**

1. TCA, FDTC, and FMU reserve the right to admit students into the Dual Credit Academic Program.
2. All students taking dual credit courses must have at least four academic classes to qualify as a full-time student.

### **Academic Weight and Credits:**

Welding, IMT and HVAC taken through FDTC will receive honors weighting based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale. All other dual credit courses taken through FDTC and FMU will receive Dual Credit level academic weight based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale. All approved Dual Credit courses taken by a TCA student will count towards GPA.

### **Dual Credit Restrictions:**

The following restrictions will be placed on all students taking Dual Credit classes:

1. Only those Dual Credit classes taken during the academic school year (from the first day of school to the final day of school will count towards school GPA.

2. Only Dual Credit courses approved by TCA will count towards school GPA.
3. Additional College Courses taken outside of the above listed criteria may be transferred as college credits by the individual student but not listed on any transcript published by the Carolina Academy. **These additional credits will not be counted towards school GPA.**

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

The school will maintain a complete set of records to assist in pupil guidance.

1. Student records are interpreted to include, but not limited to, identifying data, academic work completed, level of achievement (grades, standardized intelligence, aptitude, and psychological tests, interest inventory results, health data, family background information, teacher or counselor ratings and observation and verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns.
2. Only authorized school personnel, parents or legal guardians shall have access to the permanent record without a subpoena or the written permission of students and/or parents.
3. Any written request to the school administration by a student or parent regarding accuracy of data recorded in the permanent records shall become a part of the record.
4. Final grades are recorded on the student's permanent record. Numerical grades for both semesters are recorded on the permanent record as well as yearly numerical grades for course work. Units of credit are recorded for courses passed and units are added together at the end of the academic school year to determine classifications of students for the following year.
5. The school may disclose personally identifiable information from students' records without the written consent of the parent/legal guardian of the student or the eligible student only if the disclosure is:
  - To school officials (administration, teachers, guidance counselors and those supportive personnel designated by the administration of the school who have been determined to have legitimate educational interests. "Legitimate educational interest" means an interest related to a school official's responsibilities to students.
  - To school officials of other school districts in which the student seeks or intends to enroll; or,
  - To non-school agencies under conditions specified by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

**REPORT CARDS AND INTERIMS:** Report cards will be issued at the end of each quarter grading period. Number grades in addition to the Letter grade will be on the report card and on the interims. In addition to the report card all students will receive an interim report around the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> day of the quarter. These reports are important and will be signed and returned to the teacher. Teachers are encouraged to call parents immediately when any urgent situation arises concerning grades or conduct.

**TESTING:** Various tests (cognitive ability, achievement, SAT, PSAT, ACT) are an integral part of the curriculum. A wide variety of tests will be made available to TCA students.

CogAT will be administered to kindergarten, third, and seventh graders.

Iowa Assessments will be administered to all students in 5K through seventh grade.

The PSAT will be offered to students in grades eighth, ninth, tenth, and eleventh grades in October.

Students are encouraged to take PSAT prior to taking the SAT. The PSAT is the qualifying test for the National Merit Corporation which sponsors the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Program.

Students interested in competition for the National Merit Scholarship Program are advised that semi-finalists and finalists are selected based on scores from the PSAT taken in the junior (11th) grade year in high school.

The SAT School Days will be offered in October and March at The Carolina Academy for juniors and seniors. The cost will be the responsibility of the student.

The ACT will be offered to sophomores, juniors and seniors in the fall and spring each year at The Carolina Academy. The cost is the responsibility of the student.

More information is available at <https://www.collegeboard.org/> and <https://www.act.org/>.

Students are encouraged to take PSAT prior to taking the SAT. The PSAT is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Corporation which sponsors the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Program.

Students interested in competition for the National Merit Scholarship Program are advised that semi-finalists and finalists are selected based on scores from the PSAT taken in the junior (11<sup>th</sup>) grade year in high school. Students are encouraged to have completed Algebra I and Geometry prior to taking SAT and have completed college-preparatory English courses. Students should apply online to register for the SAT and ACT.

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

A student's transcript is a compilation of all approved courses taken for credit and the numerical grades assessed for courses carrying Carnegie units. Transcripts will contain all relevant information required by the SC Commission on Higher Education and four-year colleges.

**Transcripts**-It is The Carolina Academy's policy that all student records are kept confidential. Only personnel needing the records to carry out their assigned duties have access to student files, except in cases where the law provides to the contrary. All requirements outlined in the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act of 1974 shall be met when records are transferred to or from The Carolina Academy.

**Note that report cards, interim reports, and transcripts may be withheld pending a student's completion of course work or returning library books, or a family's payment of school tuition and fees.**

## **SEMESTER EXAMS**

Cumulative exams will be given in each subject of the two semesters for 8<sup>th</sup> grade honor students and grades 9 - 12. Exams count as 20% of semester grade. Students may exempt second semester course exams with a semester average of 90 or above in the subject. The only first semester exemptions allowed will be in courses taken for ½ credit (such as Government or economics) if the student qualifies with the stated requirements. Absences to school or to a class will affect your exemption privileges as will behavior referrals and suspensions. The administration reserves the right to determine exemption privileges and exclusion of the privileges, including but not limited to the following.

### **A student with:**

- \* More than five (5) class absences in the first semester will not exempt a half semester course exam first semester. A parent note is not acceptable.
- \* More than ten (10) absences during a year-long course will not exempt a full year course exam second semester. A parent note is not acceptable.

**Seniors** will have a choice of taking second semester exams provided they have not exceeded the attendance requirement to a class. First semester exams will not be exempted unless the course is a true semester course taken for ½ unit of high school credit.

### **Grades 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Grading Scale**

A - 90-100  
B - 80-89  
C - 70-79  
D - 60-69  
F - 0-59

### **Grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Grading Scale**

A+ - 100  
A - 93-99  
B - 85-92  
C - 77-84  
D - 70-76  
F - 0-69

### **Uniform Grading System**

The Carolina Academy uses the following grading system in Grades 1-12:

50% - Major grades such as unit tests, projects, research papers and major essays. (At least two per Nine weeks from the 50% category)

30% - Daily grades such as classwork and quizzes.

20% - Homework

### **Bonus Questions/Extra Credit**

The maximum grade for any assignment is 100. Any bonus questions/extra credit should be fair and made available to all.

### **Retests**

Retests are discouraged unless a teacher decides material needs to be retaught and retested. If a retest is given, the original test grades should be averaged with the retest grade to compute the new test grade. The opportunity to retest should be given to all students. Other situations should be approved by administration.

### **Make Up Work**

Students with a medical excuse have 3 school days upon returning to school to make up assignments.

Students with unexcused absences including suspensions are expected to submit assignments upon returning. Tests should be made up that day.

### **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) and CLASS RANK**

The Carolina Academy utilizes the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale to compute Grade Point Average (GPA). The Uniform Grading Scale assigns quality points to each numerical grade depending on the grade earned and the category of weight assigned to the course taken—College Prep, Honors, AP/IB/Dual Credit. The uniform grading scale and the system for calculating GPAs and class rank will apply to all courses carrying Carnegie units, including units earned in eighth grade. GPA is calculated by dividing the total number of quality points earned in all courses by the total credit hours in all courses attempted. The GPA will be used to rank students in their class. The GPA will be calculated to three decimal places and will not be rounded up. The class rank is calculated at the end of each school year in grades nine through twelve. All students who attend The Carolina Academy during the year will be included in the ranking. Class ranking is used for purposes such as determining Junior Marshals, Honors at Graduation, etc. Ranking is not used for the sole purpose of obtaining eligibility for state scholarships.

- The SC UGP GPA, as well as the uniform calculation date, will be printed on the official high school transcript. The graduation date will also be printed on the end of the year senior transcript.
- Seniors with a cumulative grade point average of 4.50 or greater are recognized as Distinguished Honor graduates and will wear the Honor sash at graduation.
- Seniors with a cumulative grade point average of at least 4.00 but less than 4.50 are recognized as Honor graduates and will wear the Honor cord at graduation.

## 10 Point Grading Scale

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100



## HONOR ROLL

The Carolina Academy faculty strives to motivate their students to the peak of their potential. The Honor Roll is a small reward to the students who strive to achieve that potential. **To be eligible, a student must have an average of 90 or above in each class for High Honor Roll and an average of 85 or above in each class for the Honor Roll for the year.**

## SCHOLASTIC AWARDS AND RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL

The Counselor will make every effort to secure and/or make available as many scholarship opportunities for TCA students as possible. Also, it is very important to the Administration and Faculty that all our students be recognized for any achievements they may accomplish during the school year.

1. All scholarship information will be distributed in a fair and impartial manner.
2. Scholarships with specific criteria will be directed to all qualified students.
3. Scholarship winners will be recognized during the Senior Breakfast.

**NOTE:** Various scholastic awards given during the school year are available to all students. These awards are normally selected from students who have shown merit in academics, leadership, character, responsibility, need, discipline, and service to school and community. Many outside organizations and companies also offer scholastic opportunities and awards that student can apply for during the school year. The Guidance Department keeps seniors informed about these opportunities. Students should check with their counselor and always be alert to announcements pertaining to awards and scholarships.

## VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

These are honors bestowed on the senior students who have accomplished the highest and second highest academic averages for their four years in high school.

1. The final decision on these honors will be made when final senior grades are submitted for calculation.
2. All academic grades through the second semester of the senior year will be averaged using the state uniform grading scale to rank all senior students.
3. **A student must have been a student of TCA for the junior and senior year and graduate with his/her class.**
4. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be announced at Senior Night.

## MARSHALS

This is an honor bestowed upon juniors who have accomplished the highest academic averages (90 or above) through their three (3) years in high school and who display commendable attitude, leadership, and character.

1. The final decision on this honor will be announced in mid-May for the junior year.
2. Honor Marshals will be considered according to class rank, with the top 10 students.
3. A student must have been a student at TCA for their sophomore and junior year and must be a bona-fide member of that class.
4. Chief Marshal will be announced on Awards Day.
5. **A student must be in good disciplinary standing according to student activity guidelines.**

## EARLY GRADUATION

It is the policy of The Carolina Academy to discourage early graduation. However, students at The Carolina Academy may graduate from high school in three years provided their program is properly planned.

**Students must make an application with the guidance counselor for early graduation by April 1<sup>st</sup> of their sophomore year.** Written permission must be given by the guidance counselor. Students must have the approval of the school board to graduate early.

**Students graduating early will not be eligible to serve as Valedictorian or Salutatorian of the graduating class**

## **WITHDRAWALS FROM SCHOOL**

1. All unpaid fees and tuition must be paid at withdrawal time. For transcripts to be forwarded, all financial obligations must be current.
2. A student withdrawing from The Carolina Academy is required to furnish verification by a parent/guardian that he/she is to be withdrawn from school.
3. At the beginning of the last full day, he/she is enrolled in school, a withdrawal form will be issued to the student to be carried to each teacher as he/she reports to each class period. Teachers will initial the withdrawal form and record grades.
4. At the end of the school day, the withdrawal form must be brought back to the office after it has been initialed by all appropriate personnel. The secretary will then sign it and a copy will be given to the student.

## **MEDIA SERVICES**

The media center is a vital resource of learning for our students and faculty. The use of its facilities and materials by students and faculty is greatly encouraged. The librarian requests that anyone who is aware of additional needs in the media center please advise her promptly.

## **POLICIES:**

1. Each student is responsible for the material checked out in his/her name.
2. A student coming to the library from class must arrive with a pass.  
Students who abuse the library privilege will have this privilege suspended or revoked.
3. Teachers will accompany their class to the library, unless other arrangements have been made with the librarian.

## **LOAN PERIODS AND FINE SCHEDULE:**

### **Books from Regular Collection:**

These books may be checked out for a **two-week period for all grades**. If necessary, the book may be renewed.

### **Lost and/or Damaged Books:**

If a book is lost or damaged, the responsible individual must pay to have it replaced. If there is a book that has not been turned in, the student will not be able to receive his/her report card until the book is returned or cost of replacement has been paid in full.

## **EXPECTED BEHAVIOR:**

1. Students should remain quiet while in the library.
2. Food, drinks, and gum ARE NOT PERMITTED.
3. Materials and furniture should be cared for properly, preserving them for use by other students.
4. Anyone using the library should be courteous and respectful to all other persons.
5. Students must abide by all other school rules while in the media center or proper disciplinary action will be taken.

## **SUMMER READING**

The Carolina Academy sponsors a summer reading program with required books for students in grades 5K-12 to read during the summer.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### SCHOOL HOURS

1. The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. for grades 2K-12<sup>th</sup>
2. Students must have a valid excuse with teacher/administration permission for staying in school after their classes are over.
3. Students in 5K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade are required to be in attendance and on time according to school policy.

### BUILDING HOURS

1. The school building will open at approximately 7:30 a.m. and close at approximately 3:00 p.m. unless students are meeting with a faculty member for an assigned activity, **or after school detention.**
1. Students involved in after school activities are not allowed to re-enter the main building or the Science & Kindergarten building after 3:00.

### ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is necessary if a student is to make satisfactory educational progress. Therefore, all students are expected to attend school regularly and should present a written excuse for each **absence to Mrs. Brandy Harrington.**

1. **It is expected that students will be absent only in case of illness, family emergencies, or doctor's appointments.**
2. **Students absent from school or from an individual class more than 20 days may cause the child to lose credit for the year. Absences must not exceed 20 days. ONLY valid medical excuses for chronic illnesses might be considered after 20 days, by the headmaster. Semester courses may not exceed 10 days.**
3. **The first 10 absences from school may be lawful, unlawful, or a combination. Absences after the 10th day must be accompanied by a valid medical excuse. Valid medical excuses will only be accepted as late as one week from the appointment. Parents will be notified by the administration in writing after the third, fifth, and tenth absence, requesting an attendance conference.**
4. **Family trips/vacations are unexcused absences and will count towards the 20 days.**
5. In Grades 5K-8, attendance will be based on daily attendance. Eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade students taking high school Carnegie units must meet the high school policy. Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> must be present at least half of the day to be counted present.
6. **In Grade 6-12, attendance will be maintained for each class period (subject) - credit eligibility and perfect attendance will be determined by subject. If a student misses more than ten (10) minutes in a class, they are considered absent, and it will count as one of your 20 days.**
7. Students must be present at least 3 class periods per day to participate in any athletic practice/game or extracurricular activity.
8. **It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to make up all work including assignments missed, at the convenience of the teacher.**
9. Attendance during exams is very stringent! Students will be allowed to make up an exam only in cases of documented illness or death in the family.
10. Students must be present for the entire exam period. Detailed exam schedules and procedures will be available prior to each exam period.
11. Parents of seniors should realize that no special "cut" days are allowed for seniors.
12. Seniors and juniors are allowed two college visits any time during the school year. This visit will be an excused absence when accompanied by documentation.
13. Perfect attendance recognition will take place on Honors and Awards Day.

## **TARDIES – (Grades 1-12)**

Whether to school or to class, the following procedures are followed:

**Grades 1-4:** Students will serve detention with their teacher.

**Grades 5-12:** As follows.

**Morning tardies:** Students in grades 2K-12 should arrive and be in assigned seats when the 8:00 bell rings. **Students who enter their home room after 8:05 are considered tardy and must have an excuse from Mrs. Brandy Harrington.**

**Tardy – Per Nine Weeks (Morning and/or Individual Class).**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense – Administration Conference / Note to Parent

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense – 1 DAY Recess Detention (grades 1-7) After School Detention (grades 8-12)

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – 2 DAY Recess Detention (grades 1-7) After School Detention (grades 8-12)

4<sup>th</sup> Offense – 3 DAY Recess Detention (grades 1-7) After School Detention (grades 8-12)

5<sup>th</sup> Offense – 5 DAY Recess Detention (grades 1-7) After School Detention (grades 8-12)

6<sup>th</sup> Offense – OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

1. A student must bring a note from home, signed by a parent/guardian with a working telephone number where parent may be reached or an email must be sent to **Brandy Harrington** at [bharrington@thecarolinaacademy.org](mailto:bharrington@thecarolinaacademy.org) by 8:30 a.m. in order to leave early, or if a student is to be checked out early, a parent/guardian must come into the school and sign the student out, unless otherwise approved by administration. A parent note is not in itself considering an excused tardy or early dismissal. Tests must be made up before leaving. **Only a doctor's note excuses you from school.**
2. Students in Grades 1-8 must present a doctor's excuse to their teacher who will send it to the office.
3. Students are encouraged to time their dismissals for the end of regular class periods.
4. Students in Grades 1-8 will remain in the class until the school secretary calls for them on the intercom.
5. All students must sign out in the office **as they leave.**
6. **Students are not allowed to leave and return to school to run errands, obtain forgotten items, eat lunch, or for any reason other than medical.**

**Absences and early dismissals will *only* be excused for the following three reasons:**

**(1) an illness (2) family emergency (3) doctor appointment**

## **HOMEWORK**

1. It is the parent's responsibility to recognize that students who do their homework will have a greater chance for academic success and to help students make schoolwork top priority.
2. It is the student's responsibility to see that his first priority is his daily preparation for each class.
3. It is the teacher's responsibility to see that expectations for homework are clear, that assignments are appropriate and that students who do their homework conscientiously are rewarded.
1. Written assignments should be turned in prior to leaving school in the event of illness or appointments.
2. Students are responsible for requesting make-up work from individual teachers, for complying with the arrangements and standards for the make-up work at the teacher's convenience, and for doing so within the allowable period of time (within three days) for each day of absence. Failure to do so could result in the recording of the grade of zero for any work not completed.
3. In grades one through six, papers will be sent home each week and are to be signed and returned the following day.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Forms are available in the office. A form must be filled out and approved by the appropriate teacher or sponsor the day prior to the announcement being made.
2. The form should be placed in the tray in the office.
3. Announcements will be made during home room and at the end of the day if necessary.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

South Carolina law requires that each student present to the school upon entrance (you have until **AUGUST 20, 2024**) a valid and up-to-date immunization record. The current Immunization Certificate is DHEC form 4024. The prior version of the Immunization Certificate was the DHEC 2740. Children with valid DHEC 2740 certificates do not need an updated DHEC 4024 certificate if the DHEC 2740 was (1) issued on or before June 30, 2022, and (2) no further immunizations are needed through 12th grade.

## CLOSING OF SCHOOL DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. When inclement weather occurs, the Administration will decide if school will open/close.
2. The decision will be announced on area radio and TV stations as early as possible.
3. If a decision is made 12 hours in advance, it will also be posted on the school website.

## CIVIL EMERGENCIES

1. In an emergency, parents are asked not to call the school in order to keep lines open for emergency information calls.
  2. Periodic fire and/or disaster drills will be conducted.
  3. Each classroom teacher will review procedures with each class.
  4. Teachers will accompany each group and check the roll after exiting the building.
  5. If an alarm occurs during a class change or lunch, students are to proceed calmly to safety. Home room teachers will review these procedures.
  6. Other emergency procedures will be covered with the faculty and student body. Complete instructions will be given to the faculty in their handbook and teachers will have a critical procedures plan in their classroom.
1. Procedures will be practiced and modeled for other emergencies as well. In the case of a complete evacuation, listen for an announcement on local radio and TV for the pick-up location (The Lake City Country Club)

## STUDENT INSURANCE

1. Regular insurance is included with the tuition as **secondary insurance**.
2. Regular (school day) and 24-hour insurance will be available.
3. The 24-hour insurance plan is extra and may be signed up for each school year.
4. Claim forms are available in the office.

## INJURY AND ILLNESS

1. Any injury or illness must be reported to the teacher in charge. The teacher will send for appropriate personnel to assist student. If necessary, the parent or guardian will be called to come for the student. In case of a serious emergency, 911 will be called and the parents will then be notified. If the child must be transported to the local hospital prior to the parent arrival, they will be accompanied by a school representative.
  2. The school secretary has insurance forms available for the student/parent in case of injury.
1. Each student is required to have an updated medical /emergency information form on file in the school office before the first day of school.
  2. Prescription medication must be brought to school in the original labeled bottle. A permission form signed by the parent or physician must accompany all medications. All medications are to be clearly labeled with proper instructions for administration. All medications must be brought to the nurse for storage and administration. It is unlawful to be in possession of controlled prescription medications. Controlled prescription medication must be brought to the nurse's office.

## LOST AND FOUND

1. Any "found" articles may be turned into the office. Students may ask in the office for any article they have lost.
1. Lost and found items will be put in bins and placed in the front hallway or porch at least one time each semester for parents to check for any misplaced items.
  3. Articles remaining at the end of the school year will be donated to charity organizations.

## ASSEMBLIES

1. Assemblies will be held at designated times during the school year.
2. Students are expected to exercise rules of good conduct during all assemblies.
3. Home room teachers have a seating arrangement for their classes.
4. The following standards of good conduct should always be observed:
  - a. Enter and leave the assembly area quietly and orderly.
  - b. Give courteous attention to the program.
  - c. Express approval by applauding.
  - d. Refrain from conversation with your friends; it is very discourteous to the people making the presentation.
  - e. Any talking should cease as soon as the program begins.
  - f. Books should be left in the classroom.
  - g. Classes should sit in their assigned section according to the instructions given by the teacher.
  - h. STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE CELL PHONES DURING ASSEMBLIES, PEP RALLIES, ETC.

## SENIOR CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES

**Parents of senior class are responsible for Baccalaureate and Graduation receptions. All other activities and decorations will be handled by the school administration.**

The senior class president will oversee the entire senior booklet and will coordinate Senior Day activities along with the other class officers. Rough copies are to be handed in by [April 30, 2025](#). Final copies are to be approved by [May 6, 2025](#). All copies are to be typed, duplicated, stapled and ready for distribution at 8:00 a.m. on the last day of senior classes.

**Senior deadlines: To be turned in to the Head of School for approval.**

<a href="#">April 25<sup>th</sup></a>	Class Prophecies & Wills (rough draft)
<a href="#">April 30<sup>th</sup></a>	Senior Book (rough draft) completed.
<a href="#">May 6<sup>th</sup></a>	<u>FINAL COPIES OF</u> Class Prophecy & Wills, Senior Books are due

**Senior privileges are just that - a privilege, not a right. Seniors who are persistent in the violation of our rules at TCA will lose their senior privileges. Senior privileges will be tied to tardies and absences.**

As we begin the [2024-2025](#) school year, I welcome you and your son/daughter to their final year of high school! To make this year a meaningful experience, accommodate schedules, and teach students to be more responsible, we propose the following privileges for seniors:

- Seniors must be enrolled in at least four (4) academic courses for the duration of each semester.
- Late Arrival and Early Dismissal – Seniors must sign in on the computer provided in the main office when arriving on campus and sign out when leaving campus.
- Seniors must sign out before leaving campus for lunch and sign in upon arrival on campus after lunch.
- No one is allowed to sign in and sign out for seniors. Seniors are not allowed to just leave and return without signing out.
- Seniors who leave for lunch are not allowed to bring lunch back for any underclassman. This is only a senior privilege!
- Any abuse or misuse of senior privileges will result in the loss of said privileges and are tied to tardies and absences. Any disciplinary actions during the year for a senior will also result in privileges being lost. The following actions will be taken if privileges are abused:  
[1<sup>st</sup> offense:](#) Warning; [2<sup>nd</sup> offense:](#) 3 days after school detention [3<sup>rd</sup> offense:](#) 5 days after school detention; [4<sup>th</sup> offense:](#) loss of privileges
- Seniors are responsible for any and all information missed during senior meetings scheduled by the administration/guidance.
- Mr. Stevie will meet with all seniors to discuss senior privileges.

Parents and Seniors must agree and sign the privilege and stipulation agreement letter.

### **SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIPS**

All students are expected to adhere to all rules and regulations that pertain to behavior during regular school hours. Parent permission slips and medical forms must be on file prior to trip.

For any class or field trip to be school sponsored and sanctioned, such a trip must take place prior to the participating student's graduation. School regulations will apply during all school sponsored trips. Details regarding the trip will be distributed by the sponsor or teacher.

Medical information sheets will accompany the teacher or sponsor if the child is taken off campus.

Appropriate number of chaperones will accompany the group. The teacher or faculty advisor will select the chaperones and brief them on their responsibilities prior to departure.

### **SCHOOL/CLASS SPONSORED ACTIVITIES**

All school related activities must be approved by the administration. This includes class parties, club meetings, fund raising events, etc.

### **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES**

All ideas for fund raising must be submitted to the administration in writing. All fund raising shall be approved by the administration. All soliciting of funds in the name of The Carolina Academy must be approved by the administration.

### **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Many parents and patrons have, through their support, made this building and The Carolina Academy's program possible. Students should consider it a privilege to attend The Carolina Academy and therefore, do all in their power to keep the building attractive and make the upmost use of the facilities. Books, desks, and other property owned by the academy are entrusted to the care of the student who is responsible for the property's protection.

**Students who deface or destroy school property will be assessed the full cost of repairs and be subject to possible disciplinary action.**

### **PARKING AND CARS**

The Carolina Academy reserves the right to control traffic and parking on campus to provide a safe environment for students.

1. Students who are licensed to drive are allowed to have cars at the school **but not permitted to return to their vehicle during school hours unless student has permission and pass from office. This also pertains to retrieving a forgotten item from their vehicle.**

**The parking lot is off limits unless students are coming to school or leaving school.**

2. Student parking is in the lot beside the gym behind school.

3. Students are not permitted to drive to the athletic fields of the school during school hours and including the hour before and the hour after school.

4. Students are asked to drive slowly on campus since we have small children who may not be watching out for cars. Please drive safely.

5. Drivers will follow a prescribed traffic flow for proper pick-up and departure:

**K2-K5            1:40**

**Grades 1-4     2:15**

**Grades 5-7     2:25**

**Grades 8-12   2:40**

### **GOLF CARTS**

**Golf carts are permitted on Carolina Academy campus only when driven by person(s) with a valid SC License (due to liability insurance) this includes all hours of the day.**

### **TEXTBOOKS**

1. The student is responsible for books assigned to him. Students are required to pay for lost books and damaged books.

2. Students will not be given credit for a course until books are returned or paid for.

3. Books, workbooks, calculators should be kept in locker at all times when not in use at school.

## TELEPHONES

1. **STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO USE THE OFFICE TELEPHONE ONLY IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES WITH THE PERMISSION OF OFFICE STAFF.**
2. See Section on Cell Phone Policy.

## RESTROOMS

1. **Students are discouraged from using the restrooms during class.** Students are allowed to sign out of class 3 times per nine weeks for restroom use. This is a combination of all classes. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> time students will be assigned detention (**Grades 1-7 = 1 day lunch detention each time they sign out**) (**Grades 8-12 = 1 day after school detention**) these days will build as they continue to sign out).
2. Gym restrooms are for use during PE only.
3. Student breaks are designed for restroom use.

## CONFERENCES

1. A student may make an appointment to see anyone in Administration or a teacher. Arrangements should be made prior to the time the appointment is requested.
2. Parents may make appointments by calling the school office.
3. Waiting for a conference, which has not been prearranged, will be no excuse for missing a class.

## VISITORS

1. All visitors are to check in at the office and sign in with the secretary and receive a visitor's pass.
2. To avoid disruptions in the school day, it is necessary that visits to classrooms be made by prior arrangement.
3. Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school.
4. Parent/Guardian visitors must have prior approval from the headmaster.

## CAFETERIA PROGRAM

The cafeteria staff of TCA provides students and faculty with delicious meals daily. We are fortunate to have this high caliber lunch program at our school. All students will be expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior in the lunchroom. No attempt will be made here to itemize a long list of rules. Poor behavior will not be tolerated and those who choose otherwise will have their lunchroom privilege suspended or revoked. All food brought from home or purchased must be consumed in the lunchroom or at the outside picnic tables. Students should remain in the cafeteria until they are dismissed by a teacher. Just as you are expected to help keep your dining room at home clean, including not dropping food on the floor, it will be expected here as well. A class monitor will aid in the "tidy up" process after each lunch. Teaching manners will be incorporated into the curriculum.

## FOOD AND DRINKS

1. Food and drinks are not permitted in the halls, classrooms, or gym; special events must have pre-approval of the administration.
2. Chewing gum on the school grounds during the school day is prohibited.
3. **Students are not permitted to order food or have food delivered to school by a business, fellow student, parent, or other family member without administration approval.**
4. Seniors may not use their senior privilege of early dismissal at lunch to bring any food or drink items to underclassmen.

## TUITION AND FEES

The Board of Directors strives to keep tuition at a minimum, but due to increases in the cost of supplies, operations, and keeping our staff's salaries in line with the cost of living, it is necessary to increase tuition as these needs arise. Tuition is due on the first of each month. Accounts 45 days past due will result in dismissal of student(s) unless balance is paid in full. After dismissal, the account must be paid in full for student(s) to return to school or for transcripts to be released. All first semester balances must be paid in full for students to return for the second semester. All past due accounts must be current to enroll in the next school year. Tuition may be paid in full in July prior to the start of school or monthly on a ten (10) month basis (August – May). There is a second and third child discount and no charge for the fourth child. The academy's policy is that no student records be released unless the family account has been paid in full.



## **MARRIED, PARENT OR EXPECTANT PARENT STUDENTS**

It shall be the policy of TCA to deny admission to any student who is a parent or expectant parent. The term parent is gender neutral and will apply even when parental rights have been terminated, as in adoption. It shall be policy that no married students attend The Carolina Academy.

## **STUDENT RELATIONSHIP**

The desire of TCA is to have a comfortable atmosphere for all students. This includes having a non-threatening relationship between all students.

1. Harassment of one student by another will not be tolerated (this includes sexual harassment). See Student Code of Conduct on page.
2. Boys and girls will refrain from any open physical contact during the school day or while attending school sponsored activities.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students enrolled in Physical Education (P.E.), grades 5 - 9, are required to dress out.

## **ATHLETIC INFORMATION**

The Carolina Academy offers many different athletic activities throughout the school year for eligible students in Grades 5-12. Athletics at TCA are financially supported in full by the Booster Club, which plays a very important role in fielding each of our teams and working closely with TCA Athletic Director and Coaching Staff. The aim of the interschool athletic program is to provide a series of athletic contests with neighboring schools, to seek friendly rivalries, friendship, improved playing skills, better community relations and good sportsmanship. For the athlete, interschool competition offers increased opportunities in developing and improving friendship and good sportsmanship. Interschool athletic competition also develops an understanding that the rules of athletic games are similar to the rules of everyday life.

For the student body, the interschool athletic program provides an opportunity to develop school morale, to be sportsmanlike hosts to visiting students and to exercise the qualities of fair play.

## **GENERAL ATHLETIC GUIDELINES:**

Representing your school as an athlete carries a great deal of responsibility on and off the field or court. Each sport will have additional rules required by the coach of that sport as deemed appropriate by the administration and Athletic Director. Dress codes will be determined by the administration and each coach will be expected to follow these established guidelines.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

1. A contestant must furnish the Athletic Director with a copy of his/her birth certificate, medical physical form, and a parents' permission slip before becoming eligible.
2. A contestant is ineligible if his/her nineteenth birthday is before September 1 of the current school year.
3. **A student is required to make a grade of 70 or above in TCA classes for athletic eligibility.**  
A student is required to make a grade of 60 or above in dual enrollment classes for athletic eligibility. Eligibility will be determined in the first nine weeks, first semester, 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks, **and year.**
4. A contestant has eight consecutive semesters of eligibility beginning with the first year that they enter the ninth grade (public or private). \*There are exceptions to this rule which can be approved by the SCISA Athletic Committee.
5. All transfers, member to member school or non-member to member school, must wait sixty (60) calendar days before being able to participate with his/her team or to participate in athletics. Exception: Bona fide change in residence. The Sixty Days may be waived following league/Committee review if all the following conditions are met to the satisfaction of the Committee at its sole and absolute discretion:
  - The student has completed a Transfer Form.
  - The parents provide a statement detailing the reason for the transfer.
  - The student enrolls in the SCISA member school on or before:
    1. September 16<sup>th</sup> for fall sports.
    2. January 8<sup>th</sup> for winter sports.

6. Additional transfer rules remain in effect: A transfer is ineligible to participate in the play-offs or state championship unless he/she has enrolled and attended classes at the member school for thirty (30) calendar days prior to the start of the play-offs. And the transfer student must have been eligible to represent his/her former school academically as well as eligible under any school, student or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred, or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days to be declared eligible for athletics. The Athletic Committee reserves the right to extend this period under special circumstances. Second semester transfer or transfers after January 10<sup>th</sup> will remain subject to the Sixty-Day Rule unless a bona fide change in residence is determined. A transfer must participate in ten (10) days of practice before he/she is allowed to participate in a game.  
Transfers: A transfer student must have been eligible to represent his/her former school academically as well as eligible under any school, student or athletic policy that was in place when the student transferred, or the student must wait for ninety (90) calendar days. These rules apply to boys and girls as well as Varsity and JV teams. If there is any question concerning your eligibility for interscholastic activities, please consult with the Athletic Director or the SCISA office.
7. Eligible students in grades 8-12 may participate on varsity teams in baseball, basketball, football, softball, and soccer. Eligible students in grades 6-12 may participate on varsity teams in tennis, golf, cross country, swimming, track, cheer, and volleyball.
8. The Athletic Committee has the authority to rule on any matter not specifically covered by rule, acting in the spirit and intent of all SCISA rules, policies, and procedures.
9. A SCISA ineligible student is not allowed to practice with his/her team or to participate in scrimmages, jamborees, or scheduled games.
10. **50% Rule.** Any student who did not receive credit for at least one-half of all courses taken the previous school year cannot be declared eligible for athletic participation until after the successful completion of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Reminder: A Maximum of Two Credits earned during summer sessions may be accepted from an accredited school with an established summer school program with prior approval from SCISA.
11. SCISA has set Regular season admission at **\$10.00** for adults and **\$5.00** for students. **No charge for TCA students.**
12. All athletes must be enrolled and tuition up to date to participate in any sports at The Carolina Academy.

### **FOOTBALL**

B-Team football is offered to all boys in grades 6-8 and varsity is offered to all boys in grades 8-12 who meet eligibility requirements as set forth by SCISA.

**VARSAITY:** Football is a team sport which begins the first week of August and ends around the middle of November. It is a sport which requires much hard work, but one which gives the individual a chance to receive a variety of benefits that are found in few sports.

### **VOLLEYBALL**

JV and **VARSAITY** volleyball is offered to all girls in grades 6-12 meeting eligibility requirements. Practice will begin in August.

### **BASKETBALL**

B-Team, JV and **VARSAITY:** All students meeting eligibility requirements are invited to tryout/play on these teams. Basketball will begin the first week of November and end the middle of March. The JV team season will end sooner.

### **TENNIS**

JV, **VARSAITY:** Tennis is offered to girls in the fall and boys in the spring. Students will be required to furnish their own basic equipment and meet all eligibility requirements as the same in other sports.

## **GOLF**

JV, VARSITY: Golf is a co-ed sport for students in Grades 6-12. Students are required to furnish their own equipment and meet eligibility requirements as the same in other sports.

## **BASEBALL**

B-Team, JV, and VARSITY: Any boy in Grades 5-12 who meets all eligibility requirements may tryout or participate in baseball. The season begins in March and ends in May.

## **SOFTBALL**

B-Team, JV, and VARSITY: Softball is offered to all girls in Grades 5-12 and who meet all eligibility requirements. The season will begin in early March and end in May.

## **TRACK**

Any boy or girl in Grades 5-12 who meets all eligibility requirements may try out or participate in track. The season begins in March and ends in May.

### **IMPORTANT RULES FOR ALL SPORTS**

- NO SMOKING, DRUGS OR DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
- ATHLETES MUST ATTEND ALL PRACTICE SESSIONS
- ATHLETES MUST ATTEND 3 CLASS PERIODS TO PLAY IN A GAME.
- ALL ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR ALL EVENTS
- ATHLETES ARE EXPECTED TO ALWAYS REPRESENT TCA IN A GOOD MANNER

### **SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS, ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS**

**\*A student must be in good disciplinary standing according to student activity guidelines.**

#### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Student Council's primary responsibility is to provide a student government and to serve as a liaison between the students and the administration. Elections will be held during the first two weeks in May. Candidates will be nominated and then selected by the student body - rising grades 7-12.

**A copy of the Student Government Constitution is available upon request.**

#### **Activities**

1. To assist in carrying out school regulations.
2. Promote the ideals of truth, honor, and integrity.
3. Promote and/or initiate programs of improvement to school activities.

**NOTE:** See Student Body Constitution for other information.

**No student shall hold more than one major office. A major office shall be Editor of Annual, Editor of Newspaper, Class President, President of Student Council, and Club President (current clubs at the Academy).**

### **JUNIOR AND SENIOR BETA CLUBS**

The Beta Club is a National Organization dedicated to encouraging and rewarding student achievement; and to cultivate the ideals of service and leadership in our citizens of tomorrow.

#### **STANDARDS FOR CAROLINA ACADEMY BETA CLUB**

1. The student must be enrolled in grades 7-12 at Carolina Academy to be eligible for Beta membership.
2. The student must take at least four academic subjects per semester to be considered for membership in Beta.
3. The student must attain a 90 average (at least four) for two consecutive semesters to be eligible for membership. One of these semesters must be at Carolina Academy. To be counted as a semester, the student must be enrolled by September 15<sup>th</sup> or January 15<sup>th</sup>.

4. To maintain membership in The Carolina Academy Beta Club, the student must keep a 90 average each semester with **no "C"**.
5. Should the Beta member fail to meet the 90 average one semester, he or she is allowed one (1) semester in which to reach the required average. During this time the student is on probationary status.
6. If the student's grades fall below 90 averages in two consecutive semesters, this student can follow standards for new members and return to the Beta Club after meeting these standards.
7. The student must pay local and national dues to remain on the membership roll.
8. The student shall be of: (a) worthy character, (b) good mentality, (c) creditable achievement, and (d) commendable attitude. The standards and means for appraising these qualities shall be determined by the administration.
9. Means for appraising these qualities include but are not limited to: A student with any suspension or numerous behavior referrals can be excluded from the club and from the position of an officer.

### **SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY**

Student must have a minimum of 3 semesters in Spanish. Student must have a cumulative average of 90 and Above in Spanish classes. Students must also meet a minimum of 20 volunteer service hours.

### **Affiliation and Coordination**

This chapter of the National Beta Club is an integral part of the central organization of the National Beta Club and shall be governed by the academic and financial policies laid down in the National Constitution of the central organization of the National Beta Club. Its coat-of-arms, motto, colors, creed, and official insignia shall be those of the National organization of the National Beta Club. The eligibility rules for each club is available upon request. The Beta Club Faculty sponsors and Head of School will grant final membership approval.

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE AND YEARBOOK (THE CAROLINA LEAVES)**

**STAFF:** Consists of ninth through twelfth graders who show an interest in writing, layout, design, and art. Membership is based on writing samples submitted to the English department; and the editors are chosen cooperatively by the English Department, the Administration, and the Staff Advisor.

**BOOK:** **The Carolina Leaves** publishes a spring delivered book.

**FINANCES:** **The Carolina Leaves** is self-sustaining and is paid for entirely through the sales of yearbooks and advertising.

### **SPELLING BEE**

The organization of the SCISA Spelling Bee at the school level is the responsibility of one of the elementary and middle school teachers. This teacher organizes the school participants and the competition. The teacher will also attend the bee with the participating students. The regional bee is held in January. The state bee is held in February. Locations will be announced closer to the competition time.

Grades three through eight are included in the competition. Two contestants are chosen from each grade, plus one alternate. The alternate does not go to the bee but is ready to go the morning of the bee if the need arises. Classroom teachers choose contestants by various means: highest overall average, highest spelling average, a classroom spelling bee, etc. The decision is left up to the classroom teacher.

### **SCISA MATH TEAM (JUNIOR AND SENIOR)**

The Math Team consists of a talented group of students with an exceptional interest in mathematics. The Senior High Math Meet was established in 1986 and created the interest to establish a Junior High Math Meet in 1989. The purpose of this event is to offer competition and to stimulate interest in the vital discipline of mathematics. Both the senior and junior high competitions will be conducted in the same manner and follow the same format. Individual winners and school champions will be determined by earned winners and school champions will be determined by earned points. Appropriate awards will be presented to the first and second place winners with the highest point totals, and to the top individual math competitor on each team. Complete information will be sent to the host schools from the Central Office prior to the events to ensure the smooth operation of the math meets. Participants will be chosen by the Math teachers using various math competitions, lightning math rounds, tutorial sessions, etc. The final selection of the team members is left to the math teachers and/or sponsors. This is a SCISA sponsored event.

### **SCISA LITERARY MEET**

The Literary Meet was established in 1986 based on the interest of member schools. The purpose of the meet is to provide an opportunity for students who excel in the communicative arts to participate in competition with other students interested in the same activities. A detailed set of rules and regulations has been developed to ensure smoothness and consistency. The Language Arts Department teachers and administrators will choose participants, and if necessary, there will be a competition to make the final decisions. The Literary Meet has expanded as interest grows in this activity. Students must sign up with the Language Art Teachers in early November. Dates for the auditions will be announced a week in advance. The final selection for each division will remain with the Language arts teachers/English teachers.

and sponsors. The SCISA Student Activities Committee will coordinate the event each year through its representative.

#### **The following events will be offered for the Literary Meet:**

One-Act Play	Debate
Oral Interpretation	Extemporaneous Speaking
Essay	Story Telling

### **SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUPS**

Fraternalities/Sororities and other secret organizations are strictly forbidden at The Carolina Academy. No type of initiation will take place at school. Clothing bearing insignias or logos of the organization should not be worn at school.

### **ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

The Carolina Academy Athletic Booster Club is an independent fund-raising organization whose sole purpose is to support TCA athletics. The Booster Club is responsible for purchasing athletic equipment and uniforms and paying game officials, transportation, up-keep of fields, supplies, etc. All parents who have children participating in sports at TCA are urged to join the Booster Club. Other funds are raised through ticket sales, fund raisers, and concessions. A Booster Committee, which consists of an Executive Board and a Board of Directors organizes The Booster Club. The Committee meets once a month to discuss the plans and concerns for the Booster Club.

The Athletic Director can provide additional information regarding membership.

## **GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP**

At The Carolina Academy we play to win. We also have a reputation for fair play and good sportsmanship. We wish to keep this reputation, and the following suggestions should help accomplish this goal. Please do not question decisions that umpires, or referees have made. Please do not make noises that hinder the game. For example - do not make noises while your opponents are attempting free throws. Please do not forget that visiting teams and fans are guests and should be treated as such. Please don't harass visitors before, during, or after the contest. We appreciate and endorse fan support; and we sincerely trust our fans to be "good sports." A sportsmanship statement is posted at the football field and in the gymnasium.

## **ELEMENTARY (K- 4<sup>th</sup>) DISCIPLINE RULES AND CONSEQUENCES**

### **Discipline Policy**

The teachers and administration have developed a policy which focuses on the student and helping to change behavior when it conflicts with the instruction in the classroom. The school policy generally follows this routine:

- The classroom teacher sets up class rules and procedures, including consequences for behavior.
- Time is set aside for the student and teacher to discuss the problem.
- If the behavior becomes serious, a parent conference may be scheduled.
- The student may be referred to the principal if the regular classroom measures have not changed the behavior.
- The principal may have a conference with the student. If necessary, the parent will be called, and a referral sent home.
- A behavior contract may be developed following a conference with the parents.
- **Suspension results when there is a serious infraction of the discipline code, which includes a number of specific infractions seen on the category pages.**
- **Expulsion is the most serious consequence, as it denies the student the privilege of attending The Carolina Academy.**

### **Discipline/Referral Policy**

Referrals are issued for violations of the discipline code and for infractions of school rules. Students are seen by the assistant administrator or the administrator for every referral. All referrals are sent home with the student. Phone calls to parents will be attempted either by the staff member reporting the violation or administrator.

The following consequence options for referrals are assigned to the student by the administrator handling the referral. We wish to use the most effective intervention; the interventions are arranged, below by increasing seriousness. There are educational offenses for which students may be suspended or considered for expulsion even on first referral.

- **Parent Contact:** Phone call, or if unable to reach anyone, a message or note may be sent home with the student. If no response is made a letter will be mailed home.
- **“Time Away”:** Relocation of a student to another teacher’s room for the balance of the day or for the duration of a particular activity. The student follows the schedule of the room to which he or she is relocated. This may occur with or without referral. If a referral is written, this consequence is called “in-house suspension”. If a student misbehaves during this consequence, additional restrictions will occur, such as suspension or a parent may be asked to pick up his/her child early.

- **Teacher Suspension:** Suspension of a student to the office, with work, for the balance of the day. A teacher suspension is governed by The Academy and may be extended for a second day if the teacher is able to conference with a parent. If the student is disruptive and defiant in the office, parents may be asked to pick up the child early.
- **Suspension:** A suspension is removal from school for up to 5 days at a time. They are earned for violations. Suspensions are formal, legal documents and may only be imposed for up to 20 days in one school year. There are 6 areas for which students may be suspended on the first offense. Suspension may not be appealed, but a conference may be requested by the parent.
- **Behavior Contract:** When detention, conferencing, restriction, and suspension have failed to bring about the desired improvement in behavior, these contracts are used by administrators as a last resort before placing a student before the **Administration and/or Board of Directors** for expulsion. These are signed by both the student and the parent and may be part of an Administration Hearing process. Usually, full campus restriction is an automatic part of such a contract. This document may also be used in a limited fashion when adults see a pattern of continued aggression developing between two students. Students are asked to agree that they will have no contact with each other.
- **Expulsion:** Expulsion is the removal of a student from the school for up to one year for serious or continued violations. These occur after a formal hearing before the Administrative Hearing Committee, then the Board of Directors. Expulsions may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
- **Community Service Option:** Instead of disciplinary action prescribed by this article, the Head of School or Assistant Head of School or the governing board may require a student to perform community service on school grounds during non-school hours. For the purpose of this section “community service” may include, but is not limited to, work performed on school grounds in the areas of outdoor beautification, campus betterment, and teacher or peer assistance programs. This section does not apply if suspension or expulsion is required.

## **Playground Rules**

We would like our playground to be a safe place for our students to play. These rules are designed for the safety of each person on the playground. In addition, students are encouraged to use good judgment in playing on all equipment. The equipment is safe only when used properly. All students are expected to treat each other and all adult playground monitors in a courteous manner.

1. Stay within designated play areas. Be sure to get permission from the teacher on duty before leaving the playground for any reason.
2. If the playground is muddy, please stay on the concrete. Be sure to wipe your shoes off before entering the building.
3. Respect the rights of others to use their own space. Avoid fighting, wrestling, shoving, and games that may cause injury to others. No tackle games.
4. Remember that words can also hurt. Name calling and cursing are inappropriate behaviors and will not be tolerated at school.
5. Limit throwing and kicking of balls to appropriate game activity. Rocks, dirt, sticks, twigs, gravel, etc. should remain on the ground. Balls are not to be thrown or kicked against walls.
6. Games are open to all students desiring to play.
7. Eat food and candy before leaving the cafeteria. Gum chewing is not allowed on the playground or in the school building.
8. Refrain from riding “piggy-back” on the backs of other students. No human pyramid building is allowed.
9. Toys, skateboards, skates, hard baseballs, electronics/radios should be left at home.
10. Use the restroom before going outside. Return to the building only in an emergency, with permission from the teacher on duty. Use the restrooms by the cafeteria.
11. Listen for special announcements regarding any safety hazards that may temporarily exist on the playground. Remember there are rocks, stickers, etc. on the playground. Watch carefully as you run and play.
12. Students must have a daily note from parents to remain inside during recess.
13. Shoes/Footwear must be always worn when on playground or outside.

### **FIGHTING, ROUGH PLAY, AND PROFANITY**

1. Any form of fighting, including play fighting, rough play, or wrestling is not permitted.
2. Any form of foul language (profanity) is not permitted.

#### **CONSEQUENCES:**

##### **Fighting/Rough Play**

Initial violations: student/principal conference, parental contact and short-term restriction from specific activities and a referral being submitted to the office for documentation.

Continued or severe violations will result in a parent/student/principal conference, short-term restriction from specific activities, and possible suspension.

**Profanity:** Initial violation may result in a staff-monitored phone call by the student to the parent and a referral form may be submitted to the office for documentation.

Continued or severe violations will result in a parent/student/principal conference, short-term restriction from specific activities and possible suspension.



**MY TEACHER AND I HAVE DISCUSSED THESE PLAYGROUND RULES AND CONSEQUENCES AND I UNDERSTAND THEM FULLY.**

**First Semester:**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Second Semester:**

**Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

*TCA teachers are to keep these forms on file. Please be sure to review rules with students again in January.*

# **DISCIPLINE CODE**

## **STANDARD OF CONDUCT**

The administration, faculty and staff assume that students at The Carolina Academy are mature and responsible for their own proper behavior at school and that all matters of discipline can be handled in a calm and reasonable manner. They are expected to conduct themselves with courtesy, honesty and respect for themselves and others at all times. To maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, certain standards of behavior are necessary. Each student is under the direct control of all classroom teachers and their substitutes. Standard procedures for disciplinary infractions will be enforced fairly, promptly, and equitably to every student.

For you to know what standards of behavior are expected, students should be familiar with all rules and regulations in the TCA Student Handbook.

## **❖ CODE OF CONDUCT AND STUDENT PLEDGE**

- **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

PEER SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AT THIS SCHOOL, ON ITS PREMISES AND DURING ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. PEER SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS ANY UNWELCOME PHYSICAL OR VERBAL CONDUCT OF A SEXUAL NATURE, SUCH AS TOUCHING OR GRABBING OR SEXUAL COMMENTS, DIRECTED AT A PERSON BECAUSE OF HIS OR HER SEX, WHICH INTERFERES WITH THE ABILITY OF A STUDENT OR STUDENTS TO RECEIVE AN EDUCATION. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO TREAT THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT AT ALL TIMES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY AND IN SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. DISCIPLINARY ACTION MAY RESULT FROM VIOLATIONS OF THIS ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY MAY BE REPORTED TO TEACHERS OR ADMINISTRATORS. THE SCHOOL STRONGLY ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO REPORT SEXUAL HARASSMENT IMMEDIATELY. THIS SCHOOL WILL TAKE PROMPT AND FAIR ACTION TO INVESTIGATE ANY REPORT AND TO STOP THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT. METHODS TO REPORT AND INCIDENT: TO MAKE A HAZING/HARASSMENT REPORT, STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND STAFF MEMBERS HAVE SEVERAL OPTIONS:

- CONTACT AN ADMINISTRATOR OR COUNSELOR DIRECTLY, IN PERSON OR BY PHONE.
- LEAVE A WRITTEN MESSAGE IN THE TCA GUIDANCE OR ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL OFFICES, IN THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DROP BOX.

\*\*\* PLEDGE – TO BE SIGNED AT SCHOOL. SEE FORM IN APPENDIXES.

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

**Behavior Policy** - Believing that without the appropriate behavioral patterns being present in the classroom and on the campus, the primary aim of The Carolina Academy education will be compromised, the following behavioral policy will be applied: Any student who is out-of-school suspended more than twice during a single academic year will be placed on behavioral probation for the following school year. Should the student's behavioral performance not improve during this probationary year, he or she will be subject to dismissal from The Carolina Academy for the following school year. A parent will be notified with a phone call and a discipline slip.

**Harassment** – To subject another to hostile or prejudicial remarks; pressure or intimidate, to irritate or persistently torment.

**Recess & Lunch Detention (Grades 1-7)** - The student will complete assignments away from the classroom setting during a regularly scheduled lunch period. The student may not participate in any extra-curricular activities during the suspension. Parents will be notified when a student is assigned recess & lunch detention.

**Out of School Suspension** – The student will not be allowed on school grounds during school hours. The student may not attend any school activities.

**Overnight Suspension** - The student will be suspended out-of-school effective at the end of the day on which the violation occurred and will continue until a parent accompanies the student back to school. Reinstatement will consist of a conference with an administrator. If the conference is held before any class or extra-curricular activities the next day, the student will not suffer any loss of credit/participation. **NOTE: Phone calls or letters will not be accepted.**

**Work Detention** - The student will be assigned to work on a predetermined project on school grounds for a predetermined amount of time.

**After School Detention (Grades 8-12)** – The student will be assigned work to complete while in After School Detention. Student will not be allowed to use cell phones in detention. Detention will be in a designated room from 2:40 until 3:15 p.m. The student will not be allowed to go to practices etc. until detention time is up. **Failure to report when assigned detention will result in one week of work detail for each day missed.**

**Hearing** - The student will be suspended out-of-school pending an administrative hearing presided over by a committee of administrative members. A faculty member may be asked to serve on the committee. The student and parent(s) will be allowed to address the committee concerning the violation that caused the suspension. The course of disciplinary action will be determined by the administration.

**Probation** - Strict behavioral guidelines that will be issued to the student, and any deviation from this may lead to expulsion from school.

**Parent Conference** - Parents will be notified on a disciplinary slip to call the appropriate administrator. It is the parent's responsibility to call by the end of the following school day to establish a conference time.

**Expulsion Policy**-Expulsion means the complete denial of school services. A student who is dismissed from school is no longer allowed to attend classes, receive academic credit, or participate in any activities sponsored by The Carolina Academy. If procedures for expulsion are initiated, the parent of the student shall be notified in writing of the time and the place of an administrative hearing. A decision shall be rendered within five school days of the hearing. The student may be suspended from school and from all activities during the time of the expulsion procedures. The right to appeal the decision of the hearing committee to the Board of Directors is reserved to either party in accordance with the provisions of this policy. A dismissed student's transcript will reflect grades earned in his/her last completed semester.

In addition, to facilitate matriculation to another institution or program, Carolina Academy will provide current averages in classes taken during the semester in which expulsion occurred. A student who is dismissed within 20 days of the end of the semester may, at the Head of School's discretion, take final exams separately from the rest of the students. Tuition will be expected pursuant to the contract.

**Important Notes:** The discipline code is not exhaustive. The administration has the right to take other action when deemed appropriate.

- Occurrences more than the listed number may result in a hearing.
- \*An accumulation of any of the categories of offenses will result in an in-school suspension, out of school suspension, or an administrative hearing.
- All teachers and staff members have authority over students.
- Any student participating in any extra-curricular activity may lose eligibility in that activity upon the first administrative hearing except for accumulation of Category 4 offenses.
- Penalties and punishments include any on campus, in transit to and from any school event and off campus school events.

## **DISCIPLINE OFFENSES**

### **Category 1**

- Invasion of privacy of the opposite sex.
- Possession/use of dangerous weapons.
- Setting/calling in a false fire/bomb alarm.
- Obscene language/gesture(s)-student to staff (physical, verbal or written abuse)
- Bullying, Hazing
- Stealing (major)  
**Action:** out-of-school suspension pending an administrative hearing.
- **Drinking or under the influence, possession, purchase, distribution or transport of an alcoholic beverage on school grounds or at any school function.**  
**Action:**  
1st time: Out of School suspension and administrative hearing (notify law enforcement)
- **Under the influence or having possession of, purchase, distribution or transport illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, or illegally obtained prescription drugs on school grounds or at any school function.**  
**Action:**  
1st time: Out of School suspension and administrative hearing (notify law enforcement)
- **Convicted of being under the influence or having possession of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia.**  
**Action:**  
1st time: Administrative hearing



**UNLAWFUL VIOLATIONS OFF SCHOOL CAMPUS:** Be advised any student considered to have acted in violation of the law off school campus is in violation of the school's policies and will be subject to discharge and/or expulsion from the academy. The Carolina Academy reserves the right to terminate any association with a student if it determines that such association is incompatible with the aims and purposes of The Carolina Academy. See TCA Admission Statement (pg.6) and School Policies and Procedures (pg.7) handbook.

**BULLYING:** Any ongoing behaviors directly targeting an individual with threatening words, gestures, or actions such as humiliation, persecution, isolation, and cyber bullying in any form of technology will not be tolerated at The Carolina Academy. Any act that is perceived to have the effect of harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm or property damage, or demeans a student or group or students, including acts which cause substantial disruption in or interference with the orderly operation of the school, will not be tolerated. Acts of bullying as above defined will be dealt with accordingly by the school. Contact with the school counselor, or outside counseling service, at the discretion of the administration, may be recommended.

**Hazing:** Harassment, hazing and initiation activities that involve hazing, are abusive and illegal behaviors that harm victims and negatively impact the school environment by creating an atmosphere of fear, distrust, and mean-spiritedness. The Carolina Academy is committed to providing a safe and orderly environment for all students that promotes respect, civility and dignity. It is the purpose of this policy to create and preserve an educational environment free from any type of harassment, hazing or initiation activities that involve hazing. The Carolina Academy recognizes the right of all students to participate through competition or open admission to all clubs, activities, and sport programs, and therefore, prohibits the practice of "hazing".

**Policy/Consequences:** The school strictly prohibits students from engaging individually or collectively in any form of hazing or related initiation activity on school property, in conjunction with any school activity or involving any person associated with the school, regardless of where it occurs. Any student who participates in hazing or related initiation activity, or conspires to engage in hazing, **will face immediate disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion, exclusion and loss of participation in extracurricular activities.**

## **HARRASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING**

The Carolina Academy is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers, and patrons free from harassment, intimidation or bullying. **Harassment, Intimidation, bullying (HIB)** means any ongoing intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability, or other distinguishing characteristics, when the act:

- Physically harms a student or damages the student’s property; or
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education; or
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Other distinguishing characteristics can include but are not limited to, physical appearance, clothing or other apparel, socioeconomic status, gender identity, and marital status. Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, drawing, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats, or other electronic, written, oral or physical actions. Cyber bullying is verbal harassment that occurs during online activities. It can take many forms including a threatening email, nasty instant messaging, repeated notes sent to a cell phone, a website set up to mock others, “borrowing” someone’s screen name and pretending to be them while posting a message, and forwarding supposedly private messages, pictures, and/or video to others.

**TCA will not tolerate harassing conduct.** In addition, TCA will not tolerate harassment of or retaliation or reprisal against any person who makes or provides information during the investigation of a harassment complaint.

Reporting Responsibilities, How and Where to Report, and Complaint Resolution shall follow the same procedures as those prescribed for hazing.

***Copies of the HIB policy and procedure and materials on the recognition and prevention of HIB are available at school and on the school’s website. There is a “Bullying Form” at the back of this handbook to report bullying/harassment incidents.***

### **Category 2** **Hate Speech**

The Carolina Academy has a **ZERO-TOLERANCE** policy regarding hate speech. Hate speech can be defined as language or action that insult, incite, or is inflammatory to others based on ethnic, cultural, or individual differences. It can be communicated using words, symbols, images, memes, emojis, or video. Hate speech can occur online or both.

The Carolina Academy has a duty to educate children in a safe environment. When a student engages in hate speech, regardless of the location, that materially and substantially interferes with the operation of the school, The Carolina Academy has the right to address the situation and/or discipline the offending student as outlined in the Student Handbook.

Hate speech harms individuals, communities, and everyone. The Carolina Academy will not tolerate such harm to its students and staff. Nor will we tolerate such language or actions to disparage the reputation of the school. Hate speech is a category 2 offense.

**Action:** 1<sup>st</sup> time: 1 day out of school suspension  
2<sup>nd</sup> time: 3 days out of school suspension / pending an administrative hearing.

- Disrespect, including disrespect to a staff member.
  - Failure to attend class and leaving school grounds without administrative approval
  - Lying/falsifying information
  - Invasion of privacy
  - Possession/use of fireworks
  - Obscene language/gesture(s)-student to student
  - Physical abuse (fighting)
  - Gambling
  - Possession of vulgar material or items.
  - Incompatibility-defined as flagrant or consistent defiance of the basic routine of the school.
- Action:** 1st time: 5 days of recess detention (grades 1-7) / after school detention (grades 8-12)  
 2nd time: 1 day out-of-school suspension  
 3rd time: 3 days out-of-school suspension/pending an administrative hearing

**Vandalism**

**(Major) Category 1**

**Action:**

1st time: Restitution/administrative hearing

**Vandalism**

**(Minor) Category 2**

**Action:**

1<sup>st</sup> time: Restitution/ 5 days of recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)

2<sup>nd</sup> time: Restitution/Out-of-school suspension

3<sup>rd</sup> time: Restitution/administrative hearing

**Stealing (minor)**

**Action:**

1st time: Restitution/5 days of recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)

2nd time: Restitution/overnight suspension

3rd time: Restitution/out-of-school suspension/ administrative hearing

**Possession or use of tobacco products and/or smoking paraphernalia such as vaping and e-cigs of any type on school grounds or at a school function.**

**Action:**

1st time: 3 days suspension

2nd time: Administrative hearing

**Category 3**

Violations of category three rules will normally result in suspension, although particularly flagrant violations and repeated violations may result in expulsion. Other provisions of the penalty may include monetary restitutions to the school, letters of apology, loss of leadership positions, forfeit of membership on a school team, probation, or other consequence that the administration deems appropriate.

**“Today I give you two examinations, one in trigonometry and one in honesty. I hope you pass them both, but if you fail one, let it be trigonometry.” Madison Sarratt**



➤ **Cheating**: - (test) or the intent to cheat (example: providing answers to another student; using notes handwritten or typed; notes written on hand, arm, leg or any body part; or notes for use at a later time.) Using any information or providing information to another student, regardless of how it is obtained, for fraudulent purposes, plagiarism, or falsifying data and presenting it as one's own work or research.

**Action for cheating on a test:**

1st time: **Zero** on the test and 5 days of recess detention.

2nd time: **Zero** on the test; Out-of-school suspension for 2-3 days, dismissal from Honor Society/Beta Club and any Officer positions for that school year, exclusion from academic honors and awards for the length of that school year.

3rd time: **Zero** on the test; Administrative hearing.

➤ **Cheating**

**(homework/classwork)**

**Action:**

1st time: **Zero**; 5 days of recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)

2nd time: **Zero**; Out-of-school suspension

3rd time: **Zero**; Out-of-school suspension for 3 days, dismissal from honorary clubs/services. 4th time: **Zero**; Administrative hearing

**Failure to follow a direct request Action:**

1st time: 5 days of recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)

2nd time: Out-of-school suspension

3rd time: Administrative hearing

**RIGHT TO SEARCH:** School officials have the authority to search and seize inappropriate items from lockers, cars, book-bags, etc., or from the person on campus or attending a school sponsored event at any time there is reason to believe that the student may be concealing illegal or potentially dangerous objects, instruments, stolen goods, chemicals, drugs or other substances. This right is reserved to protect the student body at large and will be employed with discretion.

**Category 4**

➤ **In an unauthorized area**

\*Any student caught in the parking lot without a pass from the main office will have automatic 5 DAYS DENTENTION.

➤ **Disrupting class**

➤ **Failure to follow directions**

➤ **Inappropriate behavior**

➤ **Inappropriate dress, hair length, or unshaven or any dress code violation.**

\*Students will have three school days to have their hair cut or next day to be clean shaven.

\*Hats are not to be worn in the building.

\*Students may be required to remain in office until clothing is corrected.

\*Chewing gum will not be allowed. To be handled by the classroom teacher.

**Action:**

1st time: Warning

2nd time: 3 days recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)

3rd time: 5 days recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)

4th time: Out-of-school suspension and an administrative hearing

**Category 5 - (Student Driving)**

Any act of irresponsibility while driving a vehicle on school grounds will result in the following consequences:

**Action:**

1st time: Warning

2nd time: Loss of driving privilege-10 days

3rd time: Loss of driving privilege-45 days

4th time: Loss of driving privilege-Remainder of year

**Category 6 - Academic Discipline**

To ensure that each student at The Carolina Academy is conforming to the Academy's philosophy of preparing its students for productive lives and the opportunity to pursue higher education after graduation, the following school academic policy will be applied:

**“Not Ready to Learn”** - Any student that comes to school without materials or without homework assignments shall be considered **Not Ready to Learn** and will be subject to the following:

**Action:**

**1st time** - Warning - teacher will contact parents and inform of student Not Ready to Learn.

**2nd time** - Student required conference with guidance counselor.

**1 day of Recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)**

**3rd time** – Student required conference with guidance counselor

**3 days of Recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)**

**4<sup>th</sup> time** – Student required conference with guidance counselor

**5 days of Recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)**

**5th time** - Student required conference with guidance counselor

**10 days Recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)**

**6th time** –Immediate Suspension. An Administrative Hearing will be scheduled. Any student that does not comply with this may be recommended for expulsion.

**DRESS CODE**

It is the belief of the administration that issues regarding clothing and shoes have become such a problem and a distraction to the school atmosphere that, as an institution, we should do something to help the students and teachers. There will always be discussion as to the judgement of the clothing item; however, there appears to be too much discretion left to the individual. School dress for all Middle and Upper School students should reflect the fact that students are at school for the purpose of education, not recreation.

If a student comes to school out of dress code, they will be referred to guidance at which time a parent will be contacted. The code below reflects the school's sense of what is in good taste but may not cover all situations. In addition, Carolina Academy students represent the broader community whether they are on or off campus. SCISA will issue a strict dress code this year for students attending all SCISA sponsored events. This has become necessary due to some of the “lax” dress codes of individual schools. Students and parents are reminded that many items of clothing, which may be appropriate in social settings, are not appropriate for school. Prevailing fashions may not always reflect what the school considers appropriate. The appearance standards are not to be considered all-inclusive. The administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of student attire, including but not limited to the following. Students are also reminded that Middle and Upper School students are highly visible to Lower School students and even serve as role models. The school is requesting the help of parents to enforce the dress code by ensuring that students are appropriately attired before leaving home. Students who are not in compliance may be sent home to change. Classes missed during this time are considered unexcused.

Below are some guidelines to assist parents and students about **appropriate dress and grooming for school.**

**\*FOR GRADES 5 - 12\***

1. No vulgar, obscene, or inappropriate symbols or language, or endorsement of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products on clothing will be permitted.
2. Shoes are always required at all times.
3. Hats or caps may not be worn at school during a normal school day. This includes the Gym during the regular school day.

4. **Girls' dresses, skirts, and shorts cannot be shorter than 3 inches above the knee, when standing up.** It must also be acceptable while sitting or bending, standing, or reaching as decided upon by the administration.
5. **LEGGINGS** cannot be worn as pants or jeans by themselves. Leggings may only be worn if you wear a shirt that is fingertip length or longer over them.
6. Cut-offs, gym shorts, biker shorts, and sagging pants may not be worn. Outer garments must cover undergarments at all times. **Shorts (male or female) cannot be shorter than 3 inches above the knee. Athletic shorts must have pockets.**
7. Revealing attire or excessively tight clothing is inappropriate and will require correction.
8. No tank tops or spaghetti straps may be worn, but sleeveless tops with at least three-inch shoulder seams are acceptable. Blouses must overlap the skirts, shorts, or pants at the waist sufficiently so that the midriff will be covered at all times (**This means while sitting, reaching, or bending as deemed acceptable by the administration.**) Visible cleavage is inappropriate and unacceptable.
9. **BOYS (GRADES 1–12) Hair should be neat and clean. Hair must be above the eyebrows (out of your eyes) and should not be longer than 2 inches of the natural hair growth of your neckline. Hair should not be longer than 2 inches on top of head and 2 inches on the sides. Headwear such as head bands, bandanas, pony-tail holders etc. are not permitted. Radical hairstyles are not permitted. Those physically mature enough to shave are to do so regularly. No facial hair is allowed.**
10. **No radical hairstyles are permitted for boys or girls (such styles include but are not limited to mullets, mohawks, colorful hair, etc.). Any 'Non-Human' hair color or extensions are not allowed. Radical coloring of your own hair is not allowed.**
11. Boy's shirts with buttons must be buttoned at all times.
12. Boys and girls must be dressed appropriately, which includes not wearing inappropriate recreational clothing to school.
13. Earrings may not be worn by male students. Females may wear earrings in the earlobes only.
14. No visible tattoos.
15. No tattered, torn, or distressed clothing will be allowed. (Such as holes or frayed areas where skin is exposed)
16. Pajama pants and bedroom shoes ARE NOT school attire and not acceptable at school.
17. Other clothing or garments may not be worn over or under clothing in order to bring the clothing item into compliance.
18. No sunglasses are to be worn in the school building and must be properly stored away.
19. Do not wear hoodies over your head while in the school building.

Under certain circumstances students will be EXPECTED to dress in Sunday attire. For instance Awards Day, boys are asked to wear khakis, light color collared shirt and tie – girls are ask to wear Sunday dress attire that follows the above dress code.

**Any violation of dress code will result in the following:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense – warning – guidance – parents contacted - violation corrected
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – parents will be contacted, violation corrected,  
3 days recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 5 days recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12)
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense – **Out of School** suspension

**\*The dress code for grade kindergarten through 4 will be supervised by the classroom teacher.**

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND TOYS

### THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT SCHOOL:

- Earbuds are not allowed to be worn outside the classroom.
- Devices such as Apple watches, Fitbits, etc. or any type of communication NOT allowed.
- I-pods or musical devices, DVD players or recorders
- Electronic video games or toys, (except for after school care use and after school events). TCA is not responsible for any loss or damages to these devices.
- Red pepper mace / Keychains that contain mace.

**1<sup>st</sup> violation:** Device will be confiscated. WARNING issued. Student may pick up at end of day.

**2<sup>nd</sup> violation:** Device will be confiscated. 3 days recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12). Parent must pick it up device.

**3<sup>rd</sup> violation:** Device will be confiscated. 5 days recess detention (grades 1-7) after school detention (grades 8-12). Students will not be allowed to have device on campus for remainder of the school year.

**4<sup>th</sup> violation:** Device will be confiscated. Out of School Suspension pending Administrative Hearing.

### **Cell Phone Policy: (cell phones, iPhones, apple watches, and all communication devices)**

Once students enter a classroom, ALL Cell Phones must be turned off and placed in the Cell Phone Pocket Holder. All phones must be kept there until the bell rings at the end of class. This includes during the change of classes, in hallways, and while in restrooms and locker rooms.

**Grades 8-12 are permitted to use cell phones only in the cafeteria and outside eating areas. Grades 1-7 are not allowed to use cell phones at school. If a child in grade 1-7 brings a cell phone, it must always be off and in their book sack during the school day.**

The use of cell phones or any other type of electronic photography/videography is NOT permitted during the school day. Students / Athletes must refrain from photos/videos of opposing teams, athletes, and other students without permission. Sharing photos/videos of any type via text or on social media, WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION AND LOSS OF CELL PHONE PRIVILEGE FOR REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Using a cell phone in an unauthorized manner or in violation of the policy, will result in disciplinary action, depending upon the nature of the prohibited activity and/or whether it is a repeat offense for that student.

- Cell phones are not permitted to be used in restrooms or locker rooms.
- Students participating in extracurricular activities and athletics must contact their coach or sponsor for his/her rules involving cell phone use after school hours or on after-school athletic trips. Coaches and sponsors will set their rules and award consequences involving the use and/or misuse of these devices. Carolina Academy is not responsible for the loss, theft, damage, or vandalism to students' cell phones.
- Students are not permitted to wear their cell phones clipped to a belt or otherwise displayed in plain sight during the school day. Students may carry cell phones in a backpack, purse, or inside a pocket of slacks, jeans, jacket, etc.

**In the event of a violation the student will face the following consequences:**

### **Consequences of behavior:**

**1<sup>st</sup> offense** – Phone will be taken. Student may pick up at end of day. 5 days after school detention.

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense** – Phone will be taken. Parent must pick up phone. 10 days after school detention and loss of phone privilege rest of year.

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – phone will be taken, and student will receive Out of School Suspension.

Any offense thereafter will result in an administrative hearing and/or out of school suspension pending decision.

## **Technology**

The Carolina Academy is committed to providing the best educational experience to the students that we serve. This commitment requires that the school provide functional, safe, and reliable technology resources to the students, faculty, and staff. Use of the school's technology resources constitutes an agreement to abide by all provisions in this policy.

Access to the internet at The Carolina Academy has been established for educational purposes as defined by the school's curriculum. The Carolina Academy reserves the right to place restrictions on the materials students access or post, and to enforce all rules set forth in the school's discipline code and in federal and state laws. The school may restrict students', faculty members' and staff members' rights to free speech for valid educational reasons.

All files are considered property of The Carolina Academy; therefore, students, faculty and staff members should expect no privacy with respect to the content of files on the schools' computers. The school will monitor the system for violations of this policy or of the law. Parents and guardians have the right to see the content of their students' computer files upon request.

### **Unacceptable Use**

Unacceptable use of the internet, school computers, Chromebooks, and the school's computer network includes but is not limited to the following:

- Posting contact information (e.g. address, phone number, etc.) about oneself or any other person
- Accessing personal email through school computers
- Accessing social media
- Accessing or attempting to access pornographic material
- Using obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening or disrespectful language
- Copyright infringement
- Changing file names, locations, or settings
- Plagiarism
- Using or attempting to use the internet for commercial or political purposes
- Ordering or purchasing products or services online
- Gaining or attempting to gain access to any other computer system or another person's/organization's files
- Disrupting the school's computer system or destroying data by introducing or spreading a computer virus or by any other means
- Using the computer to engage in any illegal act, criminal activity, or gang activity
- Giving any password to a person
- Having food, drink, or magnets near computers
- Using programs other than those approved by the school
- Any student found accessing an unacceptable website will lose all computer privileges

The system will be monitored regularly to include checks of electronic footprints. Inadvertent or mistaken access to inappropriate data is to be reported immediately to the supervising faculty member. Any suspicions of a malfunction in the system should be reported immediately.

Violations involving the use of internet, computers, or Chromebooks will be disciplined based on the degree of the violation according to the school discipline policy or the law.

## **Student Chromebooks**

The following policies refer to the use of an individual student computing device, a Chromebook. As TCA's technology initiative centers on new devices, software, and educational methodologies, additional policies will continually be reviewed and updated. Please refer to The Carolina Academy's website for the most up-to-date information.

Students in grades 3K - grade 4 will have access to Chromebooks throughout the school day that are stored in charging lockers when not in use. Students in grades 5-12 will be responsible for carrying his/her Chromebook to every class and home.

### **Distribution of Chromebooks**

1. Each student will receive a Chromebook formatted by The Carolina Academy once an Acceptable Use Policy is signed and returned to the school.
2. A parent/guardian may choose not to have their child participate in the 1 to 1 Chromebook Initiative by signing the Opt-Out Statement. The Carolina Academy cannot guarantee equal access to materials and/or quality of materials to students opting out of the 1 to 1 Chromebook Initiative.
3. Chromebooks will be distributed at the beginning of the school year and collected at the end of the school year. Chromebooks not turned in by the last day of school will be treated as lost or stolen Chromebooks, which will include fees and possible legal action.
4. Students who leave The Carolina Academy during the school year must return their Chromebook, along with any other accessories when they leave the school. Failure to return a Chromebook in a timely fashion may result in legal action.

## Student Use of the Chromebook

1. The Chromebook is the property of The Carolina Academy and may be seized and reviewed at any time. The student should have NO expectation of privacy of materials found on a Chromebook or a school-supplied or supported email service.
2. The Chromebook comes equipped with both a front and rear camera and video capacities. As with all recording devices, it is best practice and common courtesy to ask permission before recording an individual or group. Students **must** obtain school permission to publish a photograph or video of any school related activity.
3. Students in grades 5-12 are responsible for bringing their Chromebook to school every day unless otherwise directed by a staff member. Failure to bring a Chromebook or any other class material(s) does not release the student from their responsibility for class work. If a student repeatedly fails to bring materials to class, including a Chromebook, the student will be subject to disciplinary action per the school's handbook.
4. Students in grades 5-12 are responsible for bringing their Chromebook to school fully charged. A student's failure to bring their Chromebook charged will result in disciplinary action.
5. **“Not Ready to Learn”** - Any student that comes to school without materials or without homework assignments shall be considered **Not Ready to Learn** and will be subject to the following:  
**Action:**  
**1st time** - Warning - teacher will contact parents and inform of student Not Ready to Learn.  
**2nd time** - Student required conference with guidance counselor. 1 day of Detention.  
**3rd time** – Student required conference with guidance counselor 3 days of Detention.  
**4<sup>th</sup> time** – Student required conference with guidance counselor 5 days of Detention.  
**5th time** - Student required conference with guidance counselor 10 days Detention  
**6th time** –Immediate Suspension. An Administrative Hearing will be scheduled. Any student that does not comply with this may be recommended for expulsion.
6. While personalized screensavers or backgrounds are permitted, inappropriate or provocative images including but not limited to pornographic images, guns, weapons, inappropriate language, threatening language, drugs, alcohol, or gang-related images are not permitted and such actions are subject to disciplinary action.
7. A student may download non-explicit music and apps.
8. Earbuds, games, music, videos, and sound use, while at school, will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher and building administrator. Earbuds may be used for instructional purposes only and must not be worn outside of the classroom.

9. The school issued Chromebook is designed as a tool for learning. Misuse of the Chromebook may result in disciplinary action.
10. All students should recognize and guard their personal and private information. While on the Internet, students shall not reveal personal information, including a home address or phone number, or the address or phone numbers of other students.
11. All students in grades 5-12 are expected to take their Chromebook home at night for class work and recharging. All care, handling and appropriate use that is in effect during the school day shall extend to the use of the Chromebook at home.
12. The Carolina Academy makes no guarantee, written or implied, that materials on the Chromebook, including student work, will be safe from deletion or corruption, accidental or otherwise.

### **Care and Maintenance of the Chromebook**

1. Do not attempt to gain access to the internal electronics or repair your Chromebook. If your Chromebook fails to work or is damaged, report the problem to your school's main office as soon as possible. Chromebook repair/replacement options will be determined by the school's administration. You may be issued a temporary Chromebook or other materials until your Chromebook is working properly or replaced.
2. Never leave a Chromebook unattended. When not in your personal possession, the Chromebook should be in a secure, locked environment. Unattended Chromebooks will be collected and stored in the school's main office.
3. Never expose a Chromebook to long term extremes in temperature or direct sunlight. An automobile is not a good place to store a Chromebook.
4. Chromebooks do not respond well to liquids. Avoid applying liquids to the Chromebook. The Chromebook can be cleaned with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. Do not use window cleaners, household cleaners, aerosol sprays, solvents, alcohol, ammonia, or abrasives to clean the Chromebook. Use of unapproved cleaners may remove the protective film covering the face of the Chromebook.
5. While the Chromebook is scratch resistant, it will scratch. Avoid using any sharp object(s) on the Chromebook.
6. Your Chromebook comes with a case. The role of the case is to protect it, especially while being transported. It is best to leave the Chromebook in its case at all times.
7. Avoid placing weight on the Chromebook.
8. Never throw or slide a Chromebook.
9. Your Chromebook comes with ports for charging and other accessories. Care must be exercised when plugging and unplugging accessories. Student-issued Chromebook accessories are the responsibility of the student.



10. Each Chromebook can be remotely located. Modifying, disabling, or attempting to disable the locator is a violation of the acceptable use policy and grounds for disciplinary action.
11. Each Chromebook has a unique identification number and at no time should the numbers or labels be modified or removed.
12. Students should not lend their Chromebook to another person. Each Chromebook is assigned to an individual and the responsibility for the care of the Chromebook solely rests with that individual.
13. The Chromebook is an electronic device and care must be exercised when handling the Chromebook. Never throw a book bag that contains a Chromebook. Never place a Chromebook in a book bag that contains food, liquids, heavy, or sharp objects.
14. The Chromebook is designed for daily use; therefore, each Chromebook must be charged and ready for use each school day. For students in grades 7-12, Chromebooks should be charged at home.
15. The Chromebook and its case must remain free of stickers, skins, writing, painting, or any other forms of adornment.

#### **Cost of Chromebook, Apps, and Accessories**

1. The replacement cost of the Chromebook is approximately \$250 and does not include: Chromebook case and Chromebook charger.
2. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to cover the cost of school issued accessories in the event of theft, loss or damage due to intentional or unintentional abuse or misuse. Cost for accessory replacement includes, but is not limited to:  
Power Charger (\$60)  
Case (\$40)
3. Modifying the settings of the school issued Chromebook or deleting school issued software applications (apps) may result in student discipline and/or the need for reformatting at a cost to the student.

#### **Damaged, Lost, or Stolen Chromebooks**

1. If a school issued Chromebook is damaged, lost, or stolen the student and parent/guardian should immediately notify the school administrator. The filing of a report by the parent/guardian may be advised at that time.
2. If a police report is filed for a lost or stolen Chromebook, The Carolina Academy may deploy location software which may aid the administration in recovering the Chromebook.
3. Students who unenroll from The Carolina Academy during the school year must return the Chromebook, along with any issued accessories, at the time they leave the school. The Chromebook and all accessories should be returned to the school's main office. Failure to return a Chromebook in a timely fashion may result in legal action.

#### **Internet Safety**

The internet has many benefits for students; however, there are also risks. To reduce these risks, parents should be knowledgeable about online dangers, establish and follow guidelines, and be continually attentive to their child's use of the internet. For more information about keeping your child safe online, visit <https://www.netsmartzkids.org/> and <https://www.nsteens.org/>.

**Bullying Form (HIB)**

Full Name

Your Email  
Contact Phone

Names of Alleged Harasser(s)

Approximate Date of Original Alleged Harassment

Is It Ongoing?  Yes  No

Location Where Issue Occurred or Is Occurring (required)

Nature of The Harassment/Discrimination

Other Individuals Whom You Have Confided About the Harassment

Other Individuals Whom You Believe May Have Witnessed the Harassment

Remedy Sought

# STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

**I have read the Carolina Academy's Acceptable Use Policy and the accompanying administrative rule, and agree to abide by the terms and conditions outlined therein. In my use of computers at school, I will model acceptable use of computers, the Internet and proper network etiquette.**

---

**Student's signature**

---

**Parent's signature**

---

**Date**

**The Carolina Academy  
Code of Conduct**

**I agree to treat my fellow students with dignity and respect at all times while on school property or during school programs or activities, and to refrain from unwelcome physical or verbal conduct of a sexual or unbecoming nature.**

---

STUDENT SIGNATURE

---

DATE

## THE HANDBOOK

The rules and regulations in the handbook are necessary for the smooth and orderly operation of TCA and carry the force of a contract. Covering every problem in written form that might arise during the year is impossible.

Therefore, the administration can, at anytime, require changes or institute new policies that are in the best interest of the school and the students.

**The first two weeks of school, the handbook will be discussed with students in the various classes.**

## STATEMENT

I have read and understand the 2024-2025 Carolina Academy Handbook and have noted changes from the previous year. We encourage you to discuss these issues with your student(s). We thank you in advance for your support.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student)

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)

**Please sign and return this sheet to the Homeroom Teacher by August 23, 2024.**