



2025 - 2026  
Family Handbook

317.632.2006

[www.visionacademy-riverside.org](http://www.visionacademy-riverside.org)

**Dear Vision Academy Families,**

We hope that you have a wonderful school year and find our school a great place to learn, grow and have fun together. Vision Academy @ Riverside strives to provide students with a safe, nurturing environment where they find the right combination of challenge and support as they work their hardest to achieve big learning goals.

We have created the Vision Academy Family Handbook to help our parents and our students know our school better. Our handbook includes a lot of useful information, including:

- Our 2025-2026 School Calendar and regular school day schedule
- Our Academic Calendar with Progress and Report Card Dates
- A variety of ways in which parents, grandparents and guardians can be involved in their child's education and the life of our school.

The Vision Academy Family Handbook also includes an explanation of our school's rules and the things we must all do to ensure students can learn within an environment that is safe, nurturing and respectful.

In short, much of what parents and students need to know to start the year strong is right here in our handbook. Parents, please take some time to read through this document and talk about it with your child.

We are excited to have you as part of the Vision community, and we look forward to working together for the success of your child and every member of our team.

Sincerely,

*Alycia Villecco*

Elementary Principal (K-4)

*Bilen Mulugeta*

Middle School Principal (5-8)

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## **Introduction to Vision Academy @ Riverside**

Founded in 2014, Vision Academy @ Riverside (VAR) is a tuition-free, K-8 public charter school. Our community includes a diverse collection of families, educators and volunteers committed to equipping our students with the strongest possible preparation for success in Indianapolis' most demanding, college-preparatory high schools. Vision Academy is a member of the United Schools of Indianapolis Network.

Vision Academy employs a rigorous and engaging curriculum aligned to state standards as well as the Core Knowledge scope and sequence of learning topics. Our teachers use a wide breadth of effective instructional strategies, innovative tools and technology, and a variety of services to challenge and support students to meet ambitious academic goals. We find creative, engaging ways to involve parents in our work. This helps students build not only the academic skills, but also habits of curiosity, kindness, focus and persistence essential to achievement of college aspirations and life success.

Finally, Vision Academy benefits greatly from the continued support, collective knowledge and resources of a broad array of local leaders committed to providing an excellent educational opportunity for families in Indianapolis.

### **School Contact Information**

Vision Academy @ Riverside

1751 E. Riverside Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46202

317-623-2006, fax: 317-662-3792 [www.visionacademy-riverside.org](http://www.visionacademy-riverside.org)

*Note: Vision Academy reserves the right to make changes in the Vision Academy @ Riverside Family Handbook at any time and without notification.*



## **Purpose Statement:**

The purpose of United Schools of Indianapolis is to provide an equitable education to prepare all students for college and beyond while leaving a lasting impact in the communities we serve.

## **Core Values:**

**Equity:** We provide each student with support and resources ensuring fairness and addressing individual needs.

**Relationships:** We build and maintain trusting relationships by respecting and valuing differences.

**Growth Mindset:** We are committed to continuous improvement to ensure we effectively support diverse learners.

**Integrity:** We consistently do what is right for all stakeholders even when it is difficult.

## **United Schools of Indianapolis Board of Directors**

Bill Harris, Board Chair

Sarah Lofton

Jacob Crouch

Abby McDonough

Ross Ridge

Will Zink

Jetta Vaughn

Marielle Rujevcan

Carlston Elliott

\*Contact information may be available for each board member through the VAR Office and/or website.

## **USI Board of Directors Meetings**

The USI Board of Directors holds the charter to VAR, sets the policies of, and governs the terms by which the charter is issued. Board meetings are generally the last Monday of every other month held every other month at 4pm and are open to the public, with the exception of executive sessions. Notices for the meetings are posted on the front of the school 48 hours prior to each meeting. Please visit our website for the Board meeting schedule.

## **Vision Academy Mission Statement**

The mission of Vision Academy @ Riverside is to provide a college-preparatory education through a rigorous, literacy-based academic program that ensures our students are prepared to succeed on their path to college with a vision for their future.

### ***Staff will:***

- Create a safe, welcoming and supportive classroom for each learner
- Teach, practice and model the behaviors of learning
- Build strong relationships with every student and every family
- Communicate with and support students and families
- Recognize effort, growth and achievement in every learner

### ***Students will:***

- Come to school every day prepared and ready to do their very best
- Practice and model for others the behaviors of learning
- Respect themselves, their classmates, their teachers and our school
- Work hard and do their personal best at all times
- Take responsibility for their learning and conduct

### ***Families will:***

- Help children arrive on time and be prepared for school everyday
- Read with children, help with homework and check book bags nightly
- Reach out and respond to teacher and school communications
- Talk daily with children about school and encourage them to do their best

## **School Culture Vision:**

- We create an environment that is safe, orderly and organized.
- We provide a positive environment where scholars, teachers, and families are supported.
- All interactions within the school community are respectful.
- We establish high expectations for all stakeholders and hold one another accountable to those expectations.
- We develop a classroom culture where scholars are engaged and enjoying academic challenges.

## **Instructional Vision:**

- We teach a rigorous, standards-based curriculum.
- We sustain student attention.
- We have a warm and structured environment for learning.
- We engage students by pushing the thinking and doing onto them.
- We respond to data in the moment.
- We are professional and prepared.

## Vision Student Creed

Each morning, our students and staff recite the Vision Student Creed. It is a reminder and a promise to each other about how we act and how we treat every member of our team and our school. Our student creed is as follows:

<i><b>Elementary</b></i>	<i><b>Middle School</b></i>
I will treat others as I would like to be treated, I will always try to do my personal best. I will be a good listener. I will respect the property of others. I will be honest. I will help other people be the best they can be keeping vision Academy a wonderful place where we can learn, grow, and have fun together.	I am intelligent and capable of doing excellent work. The work I do today will prepare me for successful future. My mistakes are opportunities for me to grow; I don't succeed at first, I will pick myself up and try again. Respect and collaboration will help us all grow as scholars and individuals. I belong to Vision Academy and so do the people around me.

## Anti-Discrimination Policy

It is the role of Vision Academy to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all its students without distinction based on race, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, or sexual orientation. Discrimination, sexual and bias-motivated harassment, and violations of civil rights disrupt the educational process and will not be tolerated; any act of this nature will result in disciplinary action.

# Vision Academy 2025-2026 School Calendar

Our school year includes 181 days of instruction, beginning August 4th and ending May 28th. We list below several important dates in our school year. For a full list of dates and a graphic calendar of the school year, please see Appendix J in the back of our handbook.

July 28-31	Teacher Orientation
July 31	Welcome Back To School Social 5-7pm (for All VAR Families)
August 4	First Day of School for all students (7:40-2:30PM)
August 29	No School for Students- Staff Prof. Dev. Day
September 1	No School - Labor Day
September 2	Midterm Progress Reports
September 26	End of 1st Quarter
October 10	Parent/Teacher Conferences; Asynchronous Learning Day for Students
October 13-17	No School for Students – Fall Break
October 20	No School for Students- Staff Professional Development Day
November 7	Midterm Progress Reports
November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 19	End of 2nd Quarter
December 22- January 2	Winter Break
January 5	Asynchronous Learning Day for Students; PD Day for Staff
January 6	Classes resume
January 9	2nd Quarter Report Cards
January 19	No School – Martin Luther King Day
February 9	Midterm Progress Reports
February 13	No School for Students- Staff Professional Development Day
February 16	No School - Presidents’ Day
March 6	End of 3rd Quarter
March 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences; Asynchronous Learning Day for Students
March 23- 27	No School for Students – Spring Break
March 30	No School for Students- Staff Professional Development Day
March 31	Classes resume
April 24	Midterm Progress Reports
May 28	Last Day of School – Dismissal @ Noon, End of 4th Quarter
June 1	Final Report Cards Mailed

*Please note: We do reserve the right to make changes to our schedule as deemed necessary during the school year. We commit to do our best effort to keep parents informed of any changes to this schedule as we move through the year.*



## ***Vision Academy Daily Schedule***

### **Monday-Thursday**

#### **Regular School Day Schedule (8:00 am-2:30 pm)**

Before School Care Program	6:00-7:40 am Breakfast Served
7:40-8:00 am School Begins	8:00 am Academic Day includes:
Too Good for Violence (social/emotional learning)	
Literacy (Reading and Writing) Math	
Lunch and Recess	
Science	
Social Studies	
Dismissal	2:30-2:50 pm
After School Care Program	2:30-6:00 pm

\*Parents of children not registered for the Riley After School Care program can drop their children off for school no earlier than 7:40 am, and must pick them up by 2:50 pm to avoid early drop off/late pickup charges.

\*There are a number of childcare providers who can provide accommodations for families that need childcare after school. Please see our School Social Worker or Director of Registrar for help contacting childcare providers.

## Attendance Procedures and Policy

Students are expected to be in school on time every school day. According to State Law (Indiana Code 20-33-2), parents/guardians are accountable for the attendance and education of their children. As a staff, we miss your child every day that he/she is not with us, and, of course, your child misses valuable instruction every moment that he/she is not in the classroom. As a school, we are committed to having a strong attendance track record (95% or more each day) as good school attendance is central to the success of every child and our school as a whole.

Students may need to miss school due to illness, death in the immediate family or other “acceptable cause” (i.e. hospitalization or required religious observance). ***In order for an absence to be excused, parents are required to communicate with the front office via phone, writing or in person. In the case where a student is absent for 3 or more consecutive days, a doctor’s statement will be required as a condition of classifying the absence as excused.*** Personal and family vacations will not be considered excused absences.

### ***Absence Policy***

In the event we determine a child to be habitually absent from school or truant (according to the criteria above), the school staff will take the following steps:

- **Three (3)** or more unexcused absences - parents/guardians receive an email reminding them of our attendance policy and our concern about their child’s attendance.
- **Five (5)** or more unexcused absences - school counselor meets with student and follows up with a possible phone call home to identify barriers and strategies to remove obstacles. A letter is sent home outlining attendance policy and possible next steps.
- **Seven (7)** or more unexcused absences - a school administrator will schedule an **Attendance Improvement Conference** to create a plan with the family to improve school attendance.
- **Nine (9)** or more unexcused absences in a school year, the student, and parent/guardian, will be assigned a **Friday/Saturday School or an After School Detention** to make up for the time that has been missed due to absences.
- **Ten (10)** or more unexcused absences, the school is required under I.C. 20-3302-25 to report the pattern of absences to “an intake officer of the **juvenile court or the department of child services**” (Department of Child Services or the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office).
- **Twelve (12)** or more unexcused absences in a school year will result in additional outreach from a member of the student support team.
- **Fifteen (15)** or more unexcused days of school, will result in an additional DCS report.
- Each **5 (5) additional absences** are accrued, an additional report will be made to DCS.

### **Consecutive Absences:**

- **Three (3)** or more consecutive absences - a support staff member calls home to remind family of the need to bring a doctor’s note to excuse absences 3 or more.

- **Five (5)** consecutive absences - school administrator calls home and follows up with written communication.
- **Seven (7)** consecutive absences and no return correspondence from the family during the absence, the school will conduct a home visit or call for a wellness check.
- **Ten (10)** consecutive absences school administrator sends a letter of concern to the student's last known address by US Certified Mail with return receipt requested. A copy of this letter should be placed in the student's permanent file.
- **Fifteen (15)** consecutive absences - Report to the Indiana Clearinghouse for Information on Missing Children and Missing Endangered Adults (Clearinghouse).

\*Special circumstances may require that we adapt this policy to best address the needs of a specific student and family. We strongly encourage families to contact the School Counselor, if circumstances make it difficult for a child to attend school on a regular basis.

## **Tardy Students**

It is crucial to the success of most students that they arrive on time and, thus, are in a position to make a strong start to the school day. In nearly every classroom, teachers work with students on literacy skills - the foundation of school success - first. Consequently, when students arrive on time they are also well positioned to develop a strong foundation in reading and writing.

Still, despite the importance of the first moments of the school day, a small subset of our students arrive after 9AM or late to school and, thus, often miss parts of the time teachers devote to reading and writing. If your child is tardy (i.e. arrive after the start of the morning announcements), they must report first to the office to get a Tardy pass before they proceed to the classroom.

Our School Counselor will contact the family of students with 5 or more tardies during the school year. Students (and their parents) with 10 or more tardies must meet with the school administration to work out a plan to address this problem. Students with more than 20 tardy days may be referred to the state's Truancy Office or CPS.

## ***Tardy Policy:***

In the event we determine a child to be habitually tardy from school or truant (according to the criteria above), the school staff will take the following steps:

- **Five (5)** or more unexcused tardies - parents/guardians receive a letter reminding them of our attendance policy and our concern about their child's attendance.
- **Ten (10)** or more unexcused tardies - school counselor meets with student and follows up with a phone call home to identify barriers and strategies to remove obstacles. A second letter is sent home outlining attendance policy and possible next steps.
- **Twenty (20)** or more unexcused tardies - a school administrator will schedule an **Attendance Improvement Conference** to create a plan with the family to improve school attendance.
- **Twenty-five (25)** or more unexcused days of school, a recommendation for an Expulsion Hearing may be filed by the school principal.

## ***Procedure for Reporting an Absence in ParentSquare***

As a school community, we ask a few important things of our families and take several steps as a staff to stay closely connected whenever a child is absent from school.

**1. Wait for the absence notification**

After your student is marked absent, ParentSquare will send a notification—via the mobile app, text, or email—usually by mid-morning

**2. Open the notification message**

Tap the link in the app, text, or email. If you're using the app, you can also go to the “Alerts” tab or check the notification center

**3. Tap “Send Note to School”**

This button appears right within the absence alert

**4. Enter absence reason**

In the window that opens, type the reason (e.g., illness or appointment)

**5. Click Submit**

The note is sent immediately to the school’s attendance office

- ***In order for an absence to be excused***, the illness must be verified by a note from the parent/guardian or physician upon the child's return to school, stating the reason and date(s) of their absence upon their return.
- If a child misses two or more consecutive days, his/her teacher will call the child's home in order to help make up for any missed lessons.
- If a child misses three consecutive days, our teachers relay that information to our School Counselor who assumes responsibility for communication with the child's family and daily follow up until the child returns to school.

## **Make-up Work**

Students are expected to complete all work before leaving or immediately upon their return from an absence. In the case of illness or other unexpected absence, students or their families should contact their teachers via email or phone to obtain their missed assignments. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to ensure make-up work is completed.

## ***Truancy Policy:***

As stated by law (I.C. 20-33-2-3.2), students are required to attend school on a regular basis. Being absent from school for one day, or even from one class period, without acceptable cause is truancy. Any of the following fits the state's description of habitual truancy (I.C. 20-20-8-8):

- Ten (10) or more unexcused absences or 15+ tardy days before end of school year
- Failure of parent/guardian to ensure that his/her child attends school without acceptable reason as required by law

- Chronic absenteeism includes students absent from school for ten percent or more of a school year for any reason (equivalent to 18 school days) and will result in referral to juvenile court or the department of child services.

## **Arrival and Dismissal Procedures**

### **Arrival**

Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are dropped off at the front door (door #1) between 7:40-8:00 am. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> graders are dropped off at Door #2 off of 18<sup>th</sup> street between 7:40-8:00 am. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders are dropped off at Door #3 off of 18<sup>th</sup> street by the playground between 7:40-8:00 am. Any student arriving AFTER 8:00 needs to enter through Door #1 off of Riverside Drive. Those students arriving after 8:00 am are tardy and need to report directly to the Main Office. Students must sign in and they will receive a “tardy/late pass”, which they will need to enter the classroom. Late arrival to school is counted against student attendance under Indiana law.

Once students arrive at school they are not permitted to leave the school grounds for any reason without being escorted by their guardian/parent, and without being signed out.

To ensure the safety of staff and students, parents/visitors are not permitted in the building during student arrival. Appointments are not made during the arrival window.

### **Morning/Afternoon Supervision**

Each school day, The Riley Youth Community Center offers before and after school care to all Vision students. The Riley Youth Community Center program meets regularly in our cafeteria. For safety reasons, we ask that parents accompany their child to the cafeteria and sign in their child if participating in the Riley Youth Community Center’s before-school program. Parents may not drop off their children outside of school. It is not safe, and failure to do so will result in dismissal from the program.

Parents are required to register their child for Riley Youth Community Center program and pay a **per child fee** to participate. Students must have a registration form on file with Riley Youth Community Center to participate.

### **Early Dismissal**

In the event of an early dismissal, parents (or other authorized caregiver) must sign their child out at the office. With that, the office will contact the teacher and the student will be sent to the office for early dismissal. We ask that parents send a note or email to the child’s teacher on the day of the early dismissal to ensure the child is ready on time.

We do not allow students to be dismissed early between 2:00-2:30 and school doors will remain closed during this time. This prioritizes student safety as there is much transition throughout the building at this time. Early dismissal this close to the end of the day can also distract teachers from

their work preparing students for dismissal. We ask for parents' cooperation in respecting this rule, as it is something we must enforce to ensure our school remains safe for all children.

## **Student Dismissal**

Dismissal will take place with a car pick up line and utilizing the PikMyKid app. To ensure the safety of all children, no one will be permitted out of their cars or in the buildings from 2:00-3:00pm.

Any student not picked up at 2:50pm will accrue late fees. These students should be picked up at the front door.

Staff members are all busy supervising students during dismissal. If you would like to speak with a staff member during or after dismissal, please reach out via phone or email to set up a meeting.

Students will not be released to ride in a taxi or ride share program (Uber, Lyft, Yellow Cab, etc) without an authorized adult in the vehicle.

*Walkers:* Students will not be permitted to walk home without a signed Walker Release form on file. Students in K-2 must walk with a sibling in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Walker dismissal is at 2:45pm. All walkers are dismissed at Door #3 off of 18<sup>th</sup> Street by the playground. Students that are approved to walk and are not off of school property by 2:50 pm will be escorted back in the building. Students are not allowed to loiter on or around school property. This procedure is not to be used for students to walk to a car parked within close proximity to Vision Academy. Car riders are to be picked up from the school as outlined below. Failure to adhere to school rules during walker dismissal or failure to follow the walker procedures may result in a revocation of walker privileges

At 2:50 pm, late fees are accrued for students who have not yet been picked up. After 2:50 pm, parents must pick up their children at the front door. Any student still with us after 2:50 pm will be charged late pick up fees and will wait with administration until being picked up. Multiple late pick-ups or failure to pick up by 2:50 pm will result in a report to local authorities.

## **Breakfast/Lunch**

Vision Academy students are offered a free nutritious breakfast and lunch daily. Breakfast is served from 7:40-8:00am and lunch is served between the hours of 11:00 am – 1:30 pm daily. Students are not permitted to receive outside food deliveries. Students are not permitted to bring additional items (ie. chips, soda, candy, etc) when receiving a school lunch. Lunches packed from home must include nutritious items and may not include soda.

## **Academic Program**

The school year is 182 days long. It is divided into four quarters; each is approximately 45 days in length. In order to keep parents updated on their child's progress, Vision Academy teachers send home with each student a mid-term progress report half-way into each quarter and a report card one week after the close of each quarter. Teachers also schedule two Parent/Teacher Conferences during

the year – one in early October and another in late March. Below are listed the important dates in each quarter.

## **2025-2026 Academic Schedule**

### **Quarter 1**

August 4	First Day of School
September 2	Midterm Progress Reports Sent Home
September 26	End of 1st Quarter
October 10	Parent/Teacher Conferences; Quarter 1 Report Cards

### **Quarter 2**

September 29	Quarter 2 begins
November 7	Midterm Progress Reports Sent Home
December 19	End of 2nd Quarter
January 9	Quarter 2 Report Cards

### **Quarter 3**

January 6	Beginning of 3rd Quarter
February 9	Midterm Progress Reports Sent Home ( <i>Potential Retention Letters for Selected Students</i> )
March 6	End of 3rd Quarter

### **Quarter 4**

March 2-13	IREAD Assessment (Grade 3 Only)
March 9	Beginning of 4th Quarter
March 20	Parent/Teacher Conferences; Quarter 3 Report Cards
April 13 - May 8	ILEARN Testing Window (Grades 3-8)
May 28	Last Day of School
June 1	Final Report Cards Mailed

## ***Curriculum Overview***

The Vision Academy curriculum promotes academic, physical, social, emotional, and ethical growth grounded by the Indiana Academic Standards and enriched through Wit and Wisdom (K-5 ELA), Amplify (6-8 ELA), Eureka Math (K-8), Core Knowledge SS (K-4), Achievement First SS (5-8) and Amplify Science (K-8), Too Good (social/emotional). Our faculty nurtures the building of self-esteem at every opportunity – inside or outside the classroom, encourages learning and achievement, and fosters a positive, caring attitude toward others. This is achieved by emphasizing and nurturing the importance of kindness, preparation, respect, responsibility and engagement – values we refer to as the Vision Be-Attitudes.

The Indiana Academic Standards will be the basis for the core of instruction in all of the academic components. Each student will be given the opportunity to master the standards in all content areas. The objective of the school curriculum is to equip students with the knowledge necessary to master life, prepare students for success in college, inspire a lifelong love of learning, and foster responsible citizenship. We emphasize reading, writing, abstract reasoning, and math skills; however, on the whole, the Vision curriculum is designed to establish a balanced, well-rounded education and the development of the whole child.

## **Homework**

Students are responsible for completing homework assignments. The amount of homework students receive and how often they have homework varies by grade. Classroom teachers will work with families to communicate homework assignments daily. Parents will receive information regarding the specific homework policy of each class at the beginning of each school year.

### **Homework Policy**

Daily homework serves one of two purposes

1. To give students needed practice on skills and concepts taught in the classroom.
2. To review previously taught material.

When homework is assigned, teachers will review said assignment with the student, along with the purpose of the assignment.

Homework reinforces responsibility and independence for our students and gives them life-long habits that bring academic success. To prepare our students for rigorous academics, competitive high schools, and college academic work, students must develop good homework habits.

Homework grades are given according to completion and quality. Assignment feedback will be given in class in the following ways:

- Self-graded assignments using an answer key.
- Student reflection on what I did well, what I struggled with, and what I need help with.
- Selected problems reviewed in class.

Students who have not completed their homework for the day, may have a consequence depending on frequency and grade-level. The purpose of an assigned consequence is to complete the homework so the child does not fall behind.

## **School Curricular Materials**

Within the first days of school, teachers will distribute text books and other curricular resources to students. These books are provided to students on loan and include hardcover and softcover books, as well as workbooks.

We expect that students will treat all materials with respect and will keep them in good condition through the end of the year. They may not write in books unless explicitly instructed to do so by a teacher.

If a student loses or damages curricular materials, including technology, his/her parents and/or guardians will be responsible for the cost of a replacement. A bill will be mailed to the student's home address. Please see the Technology Use Agreement in Appendix K.

## ***Supplies***



A supply list is included in the Back to School packet prior to the start of school. Students are expected to bring basic supplies, which differ by grade level, to school. Please contact our office or website ([www.visionacademy-riverside.org](http://www.visionacademy-riverside.org)) for an extra copy of your child's supply list.

## ***Assessment***

At Vision, we assess students continuously in order to monitor their progress toward clear learning goals. Teachers at Vision assess students in many ways, depending on the subject, the grade and the goals of a specific lesson. Following is a short description of various types of assessment tools used at the school.

### **ILEARN Checkpoints & Summative Assessment**

ILEARN Checkpoints are brief assessments given three times a year to check how students are progressing with grade-level standards. They help teachers adjust instruction to meet student needs and do not affect grades.

The ILEARN Summative Assessment is the state test given in the spring. It measures student performance in core subjects and shows how well students have mastered grade-level expectations.

### ***i-Ready Assessment***

Students take the i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment three times a year—in fall, winter, and spring. This online assessment helps teachers understand each student's strengths and areas for growth in reading and math. It is not a graded test but a tool to guide instruction and provide personalized support to help students grow throughout the year.

### **IREAD**

Like schools across the state, Vision administers the IREAD Assessment in the spring of each year for grade 2nd and 3rd. The state requires students must have a passing score of 446 in order to be promoted to the next grade. The state mandates retention for students who do not pass IREAD.

### **DIBELS**

VAR administers DIBELS, a state mandated universal screener, to all students in K-2. This assessment identifies students who are at risk for dyslexia. DIBELS is also used to monitor student progress on early literacy skills. Students will take the DIBELS assessment throughout the year to track their mastery on foundational literacy standards.

### ***Multi-Tiered Systems of Support***

Staff members at Vision are committed to offering each child the resources and opportunities that he/she needs to succeed in our school and make a strong start on their pathway to college. We believe deeply in the potential of each child to achieve our ambitious goals and have developed a range of supports to help all learners succeed; still, we know from experience that different students require different levels of support to meet their academic goals.

We organize support for different students at Vision in tiers, defined by the frequency or intensity of support that they receive.

**Tier One:** Classroom teachers provide individualized assistance to different students based on their skills and growth areas. For instance, if students need extra help in problem solving or reading comprehension, teachers try to address these needs within the regular classroom through different strategies or approaches to instruction.

**Tier Two:** If a child's needs are not sufficiently met in the regular classroom, we supplement their regular classroom work with two additional resources. First, students may work in small groups with a grade level intervention teacher on the specific skills in which they need extra help or enrichment. Most of the students in Tier Two also participate in high dosage tutoring during the school day.

**Tier Three:** If a child's needs are not sufficiently met with Tier Two supports or he/she is not making sufficient progress, the student may also advance to Tier Three. Students with this level of support work with our Intervention Specialists – teachers specially trained to meet the needs of students with critical learning challenges. Students may work with resource teachers in accordance with each child's IEP to work on the specific skills that will lead to mastery of IEP goals.

Some students may not be making sufficient progress due to a specific learning disability, language proficiency or behavioral issue. The intervention specialists may recommend (with parents' approval) that the child is tested to determine if she/he has a specific learning disability or language proficiency score that requires additional support. With greater knowledge as to the specific disability/language proficiency level of the student, the resource teacher may decide to increase the frequency or intensity of the support they provide, following the recommendations specified in his/her Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or Individualized Language Plan (ILP).

## **Monitoring Your Child's Academic Progress**

At Vision, we employ a number of different tools to continuously monitor the progress of each student and communicate this information to parents, grandparents and guardians.

### **Midterm Progress Reports**

At the midpoint of the grading period, Vision teachers report on the interim progress of each child through our "Progress Reports." These reports inform parents of their child's academic developments and any potential problems the child may be experiencing.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences are held twice each year, in the fall and spring. A few weeks before these conferences, teachers will send information home to schedule times with each child's parents. Appointments **must** be set to allow adequate attention and time to meet with each parent. Parents are encouraged to use these times to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress at school. Conferences with teachers and/or members of the administration can also be arranged as needed throughout the school year.

## Report Cards

Report cards are distributed four times a year, shortly after the end of the grading term – and are distributed by the classroom teacher at conferences for quarters 1-3. Final report cards are mailed the week following the close of school.

Report cards list a student's proficiency for each of the standards identified for mastery during that term, his/her attendance records, and a discussion of the student's social development and success in working with other students in the classroom.

## Vision Grading Scale

Description	Letter Grade & Percentages
Above Grade Level	A+ 97 – 100% A 94 – 96% A- 90 – 93%
At Grade Level	B+ 87 – 89% B 84 – 86% B- 80 – 83%
Approaching Grade Level	C+ 77 – 79% C 74 – 76% C- 70 – 73%
Below Grade Level	D+ 67 – 69% D 64 – 66% D- 60 – 63% F 0 – 59%

## Promotion/Retention Policy

VAR is committed to preparing all scholars to be successful, contributing members of society. VAR does not support social promotion, as we believe, given the accelerated nature of our programming, it is a disservice to children to move them onto the next grade level if they are unable to demonstrate mastery of the content being covered. It is always the intention of VAR to take a proactive approach to scholar success. VAR will also have on-going dialogue with families to ensure they understand where their scholar is performing academically and what they can do to reinforce learning in the home. If in the event that interventions do not reflect adequate growth via grades and/or assessments, promotion will not occur. In addition, if multiple data points reflect below grade level performance on standardized assessments, grade reclassification may also be considered. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade that do not pass IREAD will be retained per the state mandate.

## Vision Culture, Rules and Conduct

### Vision Be-Attitudes

As a school community, we also work with students on core values that complement our school rules and help reinforce the habits and behaviors we are trying to develop in each student. We focus on three central values that we call “the Be-Attitudes”. They are listed below along with a brief list of the kinds of behaviors that define each value within our school.

Category	Example
<b>Be Safe</b>	Keep hands and feet to yourself at all times Give yourself and others appropriate personal space Use school objects and furniture in appropriate ways Make decisions that are safe for you, your body, and others
<b>Be Respectful</b>	Student directly applies what teacher says Allow other students and adults around him/her to do their work Tell the truth at all times and act with honesty Use appropriate language
<b>Be Responsible</b>	Walk properly in hallways with hands at sides Admit mistakes, accept consequences, and continually work to improve Arrive on time every day Pencils are ready to work Complete assignments on time with best effort Come to school in full dress code with completed homework

As part of our interest in developing students’ character alongside their academics, Vision teachers, with consultation from others who work with each child, evaluate students on the ways in which they are demonstrating these skills and work habits throughout the year and include this information on each report card.

### House System

We use the house system to build community within our school and recognize our students for exceptional character and going above and beyond. Each student and staff member belong to one of the five houses. The five houses represent our core values and what our school stands for: Pride, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Excellence.



**5 HOUSES...**  
**ONE VISION, ONE PRIDE.**

# School Rules and Expectations

As a learning community, Vision believes deeply in the right of every child to be safe. In order to ensure the safety of each learner and help us all work well together, there is a short but essential list of rules that we expect each member of our school to follow. There are only 7, but all of them are strictly enforced at all times. We are committed to ensuring the safety of our learning environment and will take steps to address violations when and wherever it may occur.

## **1. All fighting is forbidden.**

Fighting is disruptive and unsafe, and there are better ways to solve differences. It matters little to our staff who initiated the fight. In nearly every case, any student involved in a fight will face consequences. A student who hits another student will be suspended. A student who repeatedly hits others will be in danger of expulsion.

## **2. Listen and follow the directions of our staff.**

It is essential that Vision staff know where students are in our building at all times. Students obviously have the obligation to listen to their teachers. They must also make sure that they remain in the classroom unless otherwise instructed by an adult.

## **3. Bring with you to school only that which is necessary for learning.**

If it is not paper, a book or a writing utensil, it probably does not belong in school. Cards, toys, and other items not useful in school are forbidden. If a student brings such an item to school, the Principal will take it and return it to a parent or guardian.

## **4. Treat our building and your classmates with respect at all times.**

We are fortunate to learn in a new building. It is essential we treat it appropriately. Students may not abuse our building in any way. We are especially strict about vandalism in our bathroom, where writing on the walls or misusing toilet paper is strictly forbidden. Students caught vandalizing our bathrooms in any way will be suspended.

## **5. Do not threaten or bully other students.**

Every child deserves to be safe. Students may not threaten others, even when they claim to be “just joking”. If a student threatens repeatedly, he/she is being a bully and will be required to meet with the principal and parent and face consequences. Please see Anti-Bullying Policy in Appendix A.

## **6. Be honest at all times.**

Honesty means many things. It requires that you do your own work at all times and do not copy others work. It requires that you take responsibility for your actions when you make mistakes. Finally, it means that you refrain from taking something that does not belong to you without permission.

## **7. Come to school on time and in dress code every day.**

We expect students to come prepared every day. This means arriving on time and in full dress code, as detailed under the “Dress Code” section. Repeated infractions will require a conference with one of the Principals.

# **Discipline Policy**

Disciplinary offenses result in consequences subject to the discretion of administration and may include detention, loss of school privileges, out of school suspension, Friday school, Saturday school, reduced school day, and/or recommendation for expulsion. Vision's rules and regulations may be supplemented by teachers' rules for their classes and other school events. Suspended students are not entitled to participate in school events. In addition, any breaches of state or federal may be handled in cooperation with the police department or other authorities.

Our approach to discipline is rooted in a belief that the learning environment is sacred. At Vision we will strive to make sure that every child is safe (physically, emotionally, and intellectually), to learn without needless distractions or disruptions. In order to ensure a healthy learning environment, we have developed age-appropriate consequence systems for helping students learn to behave appropriately at school. All student choices and actions have consequences. Following school rules and focusing on learning have positive consequences.

## **Consequences**

As a staff, the Vision faculty uses consequences in instances of misconduct or disruptive behavior. Children generally make mistakes, and we believe that the consequences associated with different behaviors (and the frequency or seriousness with which they occur) is part of the learning process. With this in mind, we briefly outline a few of the potential consequences students might face in the event that they violate one of the rules listed above. We reserve the right to make case-by-case decisions as to the appropriate consequence, given the specifics of the situation and any previous history that might be relevant to each case.

## **Student Reset**

In situations where the student is causing a disruption to the learning environment, the teacher will call for an administrator to come and intervene so that the teacher can continue teaching. Examples of this include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated minor offenses (continuous talking, not meeting expectations, playing)
- Refusal to serve a time out
- Walking out of the room without permission
- Arguing with teacher/students
- Hands-on incidents
- Moving of furniture
- Destruction of school supplies/property

When an administrator is called, the student is removed from the class, and escorted to the Behavior Support Room to process with an administrator. The student will return to class after a reset if no further consequence is needed. If the student behavior warrants a consequence, parents will be notified of the consequence. If the student behavior warrants an early pick up, parents must pick up students within one hour of the phone call.

\*If the student is not picked up within one hour of the phone call, the student will be assigned a suspension for the following school day.

\*If the student behavior occurs late in the afternoon, we will investigate and determine the consequence the following school day.

## **Referral Process**

If a student is repeatedly disruptive or engages in unsafe behavior, teachers will contact the administrator for a removal. Upon receiving the removal request, a building administrator will talk with the child, as well as others involved, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. If necessary, the investigating administrator will consult with witnesses and examine any evidence that might facilitate the investigation.

Depending on the circumstances of the referral, a student may be returned to class, remain at the office for a reset, or may receive another consequence. These may include a parent phone call or conference, a detention (lunch, recess, or after school), Saturday school, or out of school suspension. Extreme cases may result in an expulsion. Conflict resolution, individual, and/or group counseling may be involved as a component of Vision's intervention strategies.

In most cases, the staff member investigating the incident will contact the parent or guardian and share with them the specifics of the situation and the further consequences involved. Parents, teachers and administrators share the responsibility to teach and model appropriate behavior and/or ways of handling situations that may have led to the referral with the child.

## **Detention**

Teachers as well as administrators may assign a detention based on the seriousness of the students' offense or continuous disruption of the learning environment. Students may be detained during lunch, recess, before or after school. Lunch/recess detention means that a student will miss lunch and recess time with the class, and will spend that time in detention eating his/her lunch alone and doing schoolwork. Parents will be notified when a child is assigned a before or after-school detention to ensure transportation is arranged.

If a student fails to attend two detentions, he/she will receive an office referral that will likely result in a suspension. When a student fails to respond to warnings and detentions, more serious measures will be taken to motivate the student to improve his or her behavior.

## **Friday/Saturday School**

Friday and/or Saturday School will allow students to remediate unsatisfactory behavior due to attendance, tardy and behavior issues. Along with the regular, weekday detention sessions, this provides an additional opportunity for students to resolve disciplinary concerns. Students must be on time and report in full uniform. Breakfast and lunch are not served. Parents will be notified when Friday/Saturday school has been assigned to their child. Failure to attend Friday/ Saturday school will result in an Out of School Suspension.

In extreme instances, students may be at risk of expulsion. For a thorough list of the behaviors that might lead to an expulsion as well as the process and procedures associated with this event, please consult pg. 42.

In the end, Vision expects all students to conduct themselves in a civil and socially responsible manner. The disciplinary measures listed above will be carried out in accordance with state law



and are essential to maintaining a safe and stable school environment in which students are able to do their best work.

## **Alternative Continuum of Consequences**

If a student is found to be in violation of our rules regarding bullying, inappropriate touching/sexual harassment, or misconduct becomes habitual, that student may be placed on an alternative continuum of consequences. In these situations, a parent may be contacted and notified that the student has been placed on an alternative continuum and the student will be assigned a consequence accordingly. In most cases, continued behaviors that are in violation of our rules regarding bullying, inappropriate touching/sexual harassment, or habitual misconduct, will result in further progress on an alternative continuum.

## **Suspension**

Suspensions may be in-school or out of school as specified via phone conversation and/or included in the suspension letter provided to parents. Parents may be required to return to school with their child to meet with the Principal or Assistant Principal as specified in the suspension letter. The suspension may be as short as a couple of hours or as long as 7 to 10 days – again, as noted in the suspension letter.

In nearly every instance, we suspend students if they are:

- Involved in a fight
- Repeatedly disruptive in the classroom/Habitual misbehaving
- Willfully defy the direction of a staff member
- Threaten or cause physical harm to another Steal/damage school or private property
- Possession of a dangerous or illegal item
- Commit an obscene act such as flipping desk or destroying school property
- Bullying or harassing another student

## **Expulsion Procedures**

The following behaviors may result in a student being expelled for a period of time as allowed by Indiana law:

- Causing serious injury to another person
- Habitual misbehavior
- Fighting
- Possession, use of, sale of, or furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object
- Unlawful possession of, use or sale of any controlled substance
- Robbery or extortion
- Offering, furnishing, or sale of any drug paraphernalia
- Criminal behavior
- Threats of a terrorist nature, hate violence, or hate crimes
- Sexual assault
- Battery

Processes for appealing expulsion are available in the school office, and are outlined in

Indiana Code, IC 20-8.1-5.1, Chapter 5.1, Suspension, Expulsion and Student Discipline.

Notification of an expulsion hearing before the administration will be sent in accordance with IC 20-8.1-5.1-13. Formal findings from such a hearing will be explained in writing to the parents and the Principal(s) of Vision with stipulations outlining the length of the expulsion. When a student is expelled under the provisions of this section and applies for admission to another school for acceptance, Vision shall notify the receiving school of the expulsion.

### **Procedures for all Expulsion Hearings**

1. A presentation of the evidence against the student is stated by the Hearing Officer (Principal or Administrative designee) at the school.
2. A presentation by the student and parent or parent's designee (individual) of any defense or mitigating circumstances.
3. Submission of written statements from any person in defense of the student accepted by the Hearing Officer. The student may present witnesses and evidence in rebuttal of the school's allegation to the Hearing Officer.
4. The Hearing Officer records a summary of the facts and disputed evidence.
5. Failure of the pupil and/or parent to appear at the hearing without good cause constitutes a waiver of the hearing and the case is reviewed by the Hearing Officer (Principal or designee). A decision is rendered on the evidence available.
6. On the day of the hearing, a presentation detailing the reasons for the decision is given to the student and parent or guardian. Formal findings from the hearing officer will be mailed within 10 days of the hearing. The decision may authorize return to school at an earlier date, and may include an alternative educational plan or an evaluation request under Chapter 766.

### **Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy**

Pursuant to IC 20-30-2-1, electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, gaming devices, bluetooth headphones, air pods, smart watches, etc) are not permitted to be used during instructional time. Personal electronic devices are not allowed to be on or carried by the student during the school day. They may be turned off and stored in a backpack, locker or cubby. If a personal electronic device is necessary to manage a student's healthcare, a letter from a doctor will be required. Appropriate accommodations will also be made if an IEP or 504 Plan require the use of a personal electronic device.

If a teacher or staff member sees or hears a prohibited or unapproved electronic device, they will send the student to administration where it will be confiscated. A parent or guardian must come to school to pick up the item. Repeated instances of violating the school's cell phone policy will result in a school-specific progressive system of consequences. The school and its staff members are not responsible for lost or stolen property of any kind, including prohibited items that may have been confiscated.

# Dress Code

Vision Academy @ Riverside students are young professionals who are learning the habits of adult professionals, including the habits of professional dress. Our dress code must be followed at all times.

## Why do you have a dress code?

Our dress code is a part of the process for preparing students to be productive and contributing citizens. Just as Vision has a dress code for its staff, most jobs and workplaces have a dress code for their employees. If employees come to work out of dress code, they are often sent home to change. Vision approaches its dress code in the same way.

## What if my child is out of dress code?

Parents will be informed if their child is out of dress code, and will be asked to bring the proper clothing to school immediately. If this is not possible, then the student will be required to wear substitute clothing, stay in the office, or will be sent home depending on the amount of dress code infractions the student has received.

## Student Dress Code

	Acceptable for Girls	Not Acceptable for Girls	Acceptable for Boys	Not Acceptable for Boys
<b>Top</b>	White, navy, light blue, green, gray, black, or yellow polo/Oxford shirt  A school colored sweater/cardigan	Striped polos/oxford  Polka dotted shirts  T-shirts	White, navy, light blue, green, gray, black, or yellow polo/Oxford shirt  A school colored sweater/cardigan	Striped polos/oxford  Polka dotted shirts  T-shirts
<b>Bottom</b>	<i>All bottoms must be khaki, navy or black</i> Pants Shorts Skirts Jumpers	Jeans  Shorts or skirts above the knee  Athletic shorts	<i>All bottoms must be khaki, navy or black</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pants</li> <li>Shorts</li> </ul>	Jeans  Athletic shorts  Shorts above the knee
<b>Optional Accessories</b>	Brown, black or white belt  Jewelry that does not distract student(s) from Learning  Appropriate wraps	Sunglasses indoors  Hats  Bonnets/Scarves	Brown, black or white belt  Jewelry that does not distract student(s) from Learning	Sunglasses indoors  Hats  Durags
<b>Shoes</b>	Tennis shoes Dress shoes Boots	Sandals/flip flops Open-toes shoes Slides Crocs	Tennis shoes Dress shoes Boots	Sandals/flip flops Open-toes shoes Slides crocs

Students are not permitted to wear the following items during school hours (7:40am-3:00pm):

- Coats, jackets, hoodies, or sweatshirts (non-school logo or non-school colors) inside of the building
- Clothing bearing any logos, messages, or other insignia – other than VAR logo
- Trousers that are oversized, low-rise, baggy, or inappropriately altered
- Hats, bandanas, scarves, or excessive jewelry.
- Accessories and apparel should not interfere with the educational environment of the school.

### **Fridays/Vision Spirit Days:**

On Fridays, students are permitted to wear Vision spirit wear or Vision colored polo shirt with any color jeans (with no skin exposed) and gym shoes.

The following clothing is not permitted on Fridays:

- Shorts
- Sweatpants
- Jeans with holes or tears that expose skin
- Leggings/Yoga Pants

## **Parent Involvement Out-Reach and Communication**

Vision Academy encourages an atmosphere in which parents, administration and faculty join in a partnership to support the development of each student and the overall mission of our school. Our partnership works best within an environment for collaboration and a frequent exchange of important information.

Vision Academy uses ParentSquare. ParentSquare is a communication platform used by schools to connect with parents and families. It offers various features like sending announcements, messages, and notifications via email, text, or the app. Parents can also use it to sign up for events, volunteer opportunities, and access school calendars.

### **Overall Out-Reach and Communication**

Strong communication is essential to the partnership between parents and teachers at Vision. We take a number of steps to encourage and facilitate strong communication and partnership between parents and teachers and the school as a whole.

### **Phone and Email Communication**

1. Parents will receive contact information via ParentSquare for their child's teacher in the welcome letter sent to families at the start of the school year.
2. Parents may initiate conversation with their child's teacher at any point in the school year.
3. School-wide concerns can be brought up with the child's teacher, or taken directly to the school principal via ParentSquare or a scheduled visit with an administrator.

**Please note:** We do not allow students to carry or use cell phones during the school day. Parents who need to deliver a message to their child need to call our office. We will either relay the

message to the student or ask the student to come to the office area to talk with the parent directly. Students who ask and receive permission may use the school office telephone.

### **Vision Family Newsletter**

Family Newsletters are sent via email each quarter throughout the school year. The Family Newsletter serves to update the entire school community as to important events, reminders and concerns essential to the life of our school. Please read the Family Newsletter each quarter to stay up to date on the activities of Vision and its upcoming programs/events.

### **Grade-Level Updates**

Elementary teachers also send weekly email updates. This focuses particularly on the topics that the class is working on, as well as assignments that may require parents' help. The Grade-Level Updates are the primary means through which parents can know just what their child is learning or working on at each point in the school year.

### **Parent University**

Parents will have the opportunity to participate in workshops on how to help their child grow as a reader, writer and future college graduate. We host two Parent Universities over the course of the year through which parents will learn more about the ways in which they can help their children develop as students. Parents will have the chance to learn about things they can do now to help their children develop the interest, motivation and financial resources needed for college.

### **Questions and Concerns**

Parents, grandparents and/or guardians who have specific questions about their child's education or concerns that the needs of their child are not being met should schedule an appointment with their child's teacher by phone or email. If the issue is not resolved, the parent should follow up with the school principal by phone or email. If the issue is not resolved after meeting with the principal, parents may submit a letter of concern to the Executive Director of USI, Darius Adamson. His contact information is available at the front office.

### **Visitors and Volunteers**

As a school community, Vision treasures the relationships we have with our families. We encourage parents, grandparents and guardians to make pre-arranged visits to classrooms so that they might better know and understand our school program and the success of their child. When coming, you must sign in at the front office with a photo ID and you will then receive a visitor's badge to have access to the building during the school day. Families who are interested in visiting a classroom must schedule an appointment with the teacher or a school administrator prior to visiting.

We are equally interested in parents, grandparents, guardians and community members volunteering their time, expertise and attention in our school. Volunteers can work in our office, helping with paperwork critical to the operations of our school, and they may volunteer for the

many different events we have engaging families in the life of our school. All are important and a powerful resource in our efforts to educate children.

In order to ensure that parent visits and volunteer opportunities go smoothly, we do have expectations (also included in the Vision Academy Visitor/Volunteer Contract, Appendix D).

- Sign in and out in the main office
- Model, support and affirm the principles that the school instills, such as
  - Be Safe
  - Be Responsible
  - Be Respectful
- Redirect only your child
- Communicate with all children in a manner that is positive and encouraging
- Turn off/Mute all cell phones and other electronic devices
- Refrain from taking videos or photos
- Maintain professional in my appearance and communication with staff and students
- Allow the school staff to continue with their work and schedule a meeting if there is something I would like to discuss
- Make clearly visible my volunteer name tag/badge
- Notify school staff immediately if a child reports thoughts of suicide and/or abuse
- Get the assistance of a school staff member if there is a situation that requires physical intervention
- Adhere to the smoke/drug free environment

Finally, we welcome and encourage parents, grandparents and community members who wish to volunteer in our building and help our students grow. All volunteers must have signed the “Vision Visitor/Volunteer Contract”, Appendix D, and have a limited criminal history check on file with the office. Volunteers must also be approved by school administration to be in the building as a volunteer.

## **Lost and Found**

We strongly encourage parents to clearly mark all of their child’s belongings with his/her first and last name. We do, however, maintain a Lost and Found Box by the elevator in the event that students lose an item in school. Any student who has lost an item should check the lost and found located by the elevator. We empty the Lost and Found Box at the end of each quarter and donate useful items either to the Vision uniform closet or a local shelter.

## **Emergency Procedures**

As a faculty, we review our school wide crisis management plan annually. We implement these procedures in the event of any unforeseen instance in which the safety of any member of our community might be at risk.

### **Accidents**

All children experience minor scrapes and bruises from time to time. The school nurse maintains a log of all children seen on a daily basis. Our nurse completes an Accident Report Form for more

serious events. In such an event, the nurse and/or staff member may follow some or all of the procedures below:

1. The school nurse or a staff member carries out immediate first aid.
2. A staff member contacts the parents to pick up the student for medical care.
3. In cases where the parents or the designated emergency persons cannot be reached, or where immediate medical attention is needed, the school calls a local emergency unit for treatment and/or transportation to a hospital. A staff member accompanies the student and stays until the parent arrives.
4. In cases of extreme emergency, the nurse or administrator may contact the local emergency unit before calling the parent.

### **Child Abuse/Neglect Protocol**

Indiana law requires immediate reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect to the authorities and to the appropriate individual in charge of the school. Failure to do so is a violation of the law.

### **Emergency Drills**

Each year the school conducts different types of drills to make sure students know what to do in case of an emergency while they are in school. We conduct the following drills:

- **Fire Drills** are conducted regularly as required by the Indianapolis Fire Department. Fire exit routes and procedures are posted in every classroom.
- **Inclement Weather Drills** are conducted each semester. Procedures are reviewed by teachers, and practiced by children. Exit directions and procedures are posted in all rooms.
- **Lockout Drills** are utilized when there is a safety concern OUTSIDE the building. During this time, no one is permitted to enter or exit the building. Normal activities continue inside.
- **Lockdown Drills** are conducted if there is a safety concern INSIDE the building.
- Classrooms are secured and the class moves into a more protected area of the classroom.
- **Emergency Evacuation:** Students would be evacuated to a predetermined location and parents will be contacted.

As always, student safety is our top priority. During an emergency our attention is focused on following our procedures and keeping everyone safe. Once everyone is safe and secure, parents will be notified via a SchoolMessenger call. Please make sure your phone number and email address is updated at all times. Additionally, it is important that the school phone lines are kept open during an emergency so we can be notified of updates from emergency personnel

### **Video Surveillance**

Video surveillance is used to maintain safety and security of our staff and students. The surveillance video is general surveillance and is not specific to any student or person. Surveillance videos are only kept for a short time and we record over the videos daily. We do not maintain videos that have been recorded over. It is our policy that we do not share video surveillance with parents, family or community members.

### **School Closings or Delays**

If school is closed or the opening is delayed due to inclement weather, power outage or other problem, the school principals or assistant principals will send out a ParentSquare notification to all families, as well as post this information on Facebook, as well as local radio and television stations –WISH (channel 8), WTHR (channel 13) and WRTV (channel 6). If a delay is called for, Vision follows a 2-hr delay schedule and the school day begins at 10:00 am.

## **Health Policies and Procedures**

The nurse's office works very hard to maintain the health of all the students. It is our goal to make sure all students have a safe and healthy place to learn. The following policies and procedures regarding the health of our students were created to ensure the safety, health and the total welfare of all the students at Vision Academy.

### **Administration of Medication**

Giving medication during school hours is discouraged and restricted to necessary medication that cannot be given at home; yet, some specific situations require it. In the instance that medication has to be given at school, parents/guardians **MUST** bring the medication to the school office before school, where it will be delivered to the nurse and stored in a cabinet or refrigerator.

If your child needs to take a prescription medication at school, please ask your pharmacy to provide a duplicate bottle for school usage. Any changes from your child's original prescription must be verified by the doctor, either by a fax or a new script. If your child has a medical condition which requires medication to be given on an as-needed basis, a doctor's note is requested to contain instructions for administration of medication and reason for the medication.

All medications brought to school **MUST** be in the prescription bottle or original container. Medicine will not be given unless it is prescribed for the child bringing it to school and the container has his/her name on it. All medications must be accompanied by a medication slip, including:

1. Student's Name
2. Medication Name
3. Directions (amount and time to be given)
4. Number of days to be given
5. Parent's signature, telephone number and date

Any medication, not in the original container, and with the child's name on it, will be held by the school nurse for a parent to pick up within one week. After that, it will be destroyed. Medications, whether prescription or over-the-counter, may not be given without written consent from parents or guardians.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Parents must notify the school immediately if a student has contracted a communicable disease. The school will then notify parents of other students in the classroom and, possibly, grade level. If more than one case of a communicable disease occurs in a single homeroom or area of the school, the school may contact a Public Health Officer. In the event of an epidemic, special precautions or exclusion policies will be initiated. Vision follows isolation and quarantine regulations as prescribed by the Indiana Department of Public Health.



## Doctor/Dentist Appointments

All appointments are strongly urged to be scheduled outside school hours. If this is not possible, a parent or a designated guardian must come to the school office to pick up a student for a medical or dental appointment. Students cannot be released unless an authorized person listed on the emergency card is present.

## Health Requisites

Vision employs a full-time counselor and school registered nurse. We follow state law concerning proper immunization, and we require that immunization records be on file before a student is allowed to attend school. All students must present, before admission, a physician's certificate listing the required immunizations as outlined by the State Board of Health. Parents are required to maintain a current record of immunizations for their child(ren) or fill out a refusal form.

## Illness and Exclusion Policy

If a student shows any symptoms of illness, such as a temperature, nausea, diarrhea, sore throat, or a rash, he/she should not come to school until a diagnosis has been determined or the symptoms have disappeared.

If a student shows symptoms of illness while at school, the student is excluded from the regular school program, and the following procedures are followed:

1. The student is asked to report to the nurse's office.
2. Parents are notified to make arrangements to have the student picked up at school. *It is essential that parents list people on the emergency card who are able to pick up the student if the parents cannot be reached.*

## Items of Interest or Concern

- A limited amount of clothing is available in the nurse's office for the children when accidents occur. If your child needs to use these items, they need to be laundered and promptly returned to the nurse's office. If your child has frequent accidents, please keep a supply of clothes in their cubby.
- If your child becomes ill or injured, it is imperative that the nurse's office has **three (3)** working contact numbers on file. The nurse's office must be able to reach parents, guardians, or someone who will be responsible for the child and pick them up in a **timely** manner.
- Vision has a "no nit policy." Any student diagnosed with lice must be nit free before returning to school. Information on lice control is available in the nurse's office.
- DO NOT send your child to school if they had a fever above **100 degrees** within the last **24 hours**. If they complain of feeling ill, please check their temperature before sending them to school.
- DO NOT send your child to school if they have had **diarrhea or vomiting in the last 24 hours**.
- If your child has **any** type of infection, they must have been on an antibiotic for **24 hours** before returning to school.

**Screening Tests**

Vision works with the State and local health agency to conduct age appropriate health screenings. These tests are carried on under the supervision of our school nurse. Health screening procedures can only identify potential or existing health problems. School officials will notify parents/guardians of the results of the screening to allow the necessary follow up with medical personnel.

## **Admissions to Vision Academy**

**Vision Academy** is a partner with Enroll Indy, a city-wide unified enrollment system. In order to enroll at a Vision Academy partner school, families will need to fill out a [One Match Application \(www.enrollindy.org/apply\)](http://www.enrollindy.org/apply). When completing the application, you will need to rank the specific school as #1 on the application in order to have the best chance of being matched with us. If you have questions about how to fill out the application, contact the school office. Instructions for applying are also listed below.

### **Enrolling @ Vision Academy**

Families who are interested in enrolling with Vision Academy should complete the following steps:

1. Complete an application by visiting [www.enrollindy.org/apply](http://www.enrollindy.org/apply).
  - i. Create a family profile
  - ii. Complete an application
  - iii. Rank specific school of choice as #1 choice.
2. Enroll Indy notifies you of a school match (date of school match notification is detailed below).
3. If matched with your school of choice, you will receive welcome letter from the school detailing next steps for enrolling your scholar.
4. Attend a New Family Orientation (dates will be included in welcome letter) and complete registration documents.

## **Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is OneMatch?**

OneMatch is a unified enrollment system that streamlines the application process for Indianapolis students and their families. Families who would like to apply to a new school for the 2025-2026 school year can now use the OneMatch system to fill out one application with one timeline and receive one match for their students. Families use a single application to apply to up to 10 schools, instead of filling out different applications for every school they're interested in.

### **Why is the school part of the OneMatch system?**

We believe in following an enrollment process that is equitable for all families. By partnering with Enroll Indy and using the OneMatch system, the enrollment process will be more accessible.

**When will applications be accepted?**

Families will apply online at [www.enrollindy.org/apply](http://www.enrollindy.org/apply). The link is also provided on our website or you may go directly to the Enroll Indy website. No paper applications will be available, but families who do not have access to a computer or a mobile device may come to the school office and use the application computers from 9am-3pm Monday-Friday. To apply outside of these hours, please call the school office to make an appointment.

**How will the application process work?**

When filling out the application, a family will create a profile which will show a student's neighborhood or boundary school and any other schools to which you can apply. Township schools and private schools will continue to have separate applications, but all IPS and most charter schools will use the OneMatch application. Families may list up to ten schools they are willing to attend, although families may only list one or two if that is their preference.

**What happens if I do not match to my choice?**

If you do not match to one of your choices, you will default to your neighborhood or boundary school. If you are unsatisfied with that match, you may reapply during the second or third round, provided there are spaces still available.

**What steps will I need to take to secure my spot?**

A timeline for securing your spot and submitting your paperwork will be detailed when you receive your match.

## Appendix A: Vision Anti-Bullying Policy

At Vision Academy @ Riverside, we expect every student to follow the Vision Be-Attitudes and be kind, respectful, prepared, responsible, and engaged each day. Vision prioritizes the safety of every student and prohibits bullying of any kind. We define **bullying** (as the Indiana Department of Education's does) as the following:

### IC 20-33-8-0.2

#### **"Bullying"**

Sec. 02. "Bullying" means overt, repeated acts or gestures, including: (1) verbal or written communications transmitted;

(2) physical acts committed; or

(3) any other behaviors committed;

by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student...

How does Vision create a safe environment that prohibits bullying?

- Vision Be-Attitudes
- School identified bullying curriculum
- Extra supervision for bullying "hot spots"
- Counseling interventions
- Negative consequences for aggressors

What to do when bullying is suspected?

#### **Students who are being bullied or who have witnessed bullying...**

The student should report the incident to a teacher immediately. The teacher will refer the incident to administration who will investigate the incident. Administration will meet with the alleged aggressor, the victim, and bystanders. Consequences will be given to any students found to be in violation of bullying or bystanders, and the student in violation will be placed on our alternative continuum or moved further down the alternative continuum. Parents of both the alleged aggressor and victim will be notified.

- If bullying continues after investigation and consequences, the aggressor will move down our bullying continuum and may be referred to counseling services, or receive additional consequences, increasing in severity.
- The victim will attend a meeting where a plan is developed to ensure safety in the school.
- This rule applies when a student:
- Is on school grounds immediately before or during school hours, immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;
- Is off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event;
- Is traveling to or from a school activity, function or event; or
- Is using property or equipment (i.e. computers) provided by the school.

**Parents who suspect bullying should follow the same procedure as students, which is to report the suspected incident(s) to the student's teacher immediately.**

## **Appendix B: Student Discipline Policies**

Vision Academy student discipline policies and guidelines are executed in accordance with Indiana Code, IC 20-8.1-5.1.

### **Search and Seizure Policy**

1. The School Board recognizes that the privacy of students and their belongings may not be violated by unreasonable search and seizure and directs that no student be searched without reasonable cause for a search.

A. As used in this policy, “reasonable cause for a search” means any circumstances, which would cause a reasonable person to believe that the search of a particular person, place, or thing will lead to the discovery of:

- i. Evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook; or
- ii. Anything, which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person.

2. All lockers and other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the school corporation and are provided for the use of the students subject to inspection, access for maintenance, and search pursuant to this policy. A student who uses a locker that is the property of a school is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or storage area except with a lock provided by or approved by the principal of the school in which the locker or storage area is located. Unapproved locks shall be removed and destroyed.

3. The principal or a member of administrative staff may search a locker and its contents where either the person conducting the search or the person designating the search believes there is reasonable cause.

4. The principal, a member of the administrative staff, or a teacher may search a desk or any other storage area on school premises other than a locker when the person conducting the search has reasonable cause for a search.

5. The principal, or another member of the administrative staff may search the person of a student during a school activity if the principal has reasonable grounds for a search of that student.

A. Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to:

- i. Searches of the pockets of the student,
- ii. Any object in the possession of the student such as a purse or briefcase, and/or
- iii. A “pat down” of the exterior of the student’s clothing.

6. Searches of the person of a student that require removal of clothing other than a coat or jacket shall be referred to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy. A person of the same sex as the student being searched shall conduct searches of the person

of a student in a private room. At least one, but not more than three, additional persons of the same sex as the student being searched shall witness, but not participate, in the search. At the request of the student to be searched, an additional person of the same sex as the student designated by the student, and then reasonably available on school premises shall witness the search. The parent or guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.

7. Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy which is evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the student handbook may as deemed appropriate by school authorities, be:

- a. Seized and admitted as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding if it is tagged for identification at the time it is seized and kept in a secure place by the principal or the principal's designee until it is presented at the hearing,
- b. Returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized,
- c. Destroyed if it has no significant value, or
- d. Turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.

8. Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person may be seized and, as considered appropriate by school authorities, may be:

- a. Returned to the parent or guardian of the student from whom it was seized
- b. Destroyed, or
- c. Turned over to any law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.

9. The principal or a member of the administrative staff may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to:

- a. Search any area of school premises, any student, or any motor vehicle on school premises;
- b. Identify or dispose of anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this policy.

Where law enforcement officers respond to such a request, no school employee shall assist or otherwise participate in any search conducted.

## **Expulsion Procedures**

The following behaviors may result in a student being expelled for a period of time as allowed by Indiana law:

- Causing serious injury to another person
- Habitual misbehavior
- Possession, use of, sale of, or furnishing any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object
- Unlawful possession of, use or sale of any controlled substance
- Robbery or extortion
- Offering, furnishing, or sale of any drug paraphernalia
- Criminal behavior
- Threats of a terrorist nature, hate violence, or hate crimes
- Sexual assault
- Battery

Forms and processes for appealing expulsion are available in the school office, and are outlined in Indiana Code, IC 20-8.1-5.1, Chapter 5.1, Suspension, Expulsion and Student Discipline.

Notification of an expulsion hearing before the administration will be sent in accordance with IC

20-8.1-5.1-13. Formal findings from such a hearing will be explained in writing to the parents and the Principal of Vision with stipulations outlining the length of the expulsion.

Any student who has been expelled pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Trustees as specified in IC 20-8.1-5.1-13. When a student is expelled under the provisions of this section and applies for admission to another school for acceptance, the Principal of Vision shall notify the head of the receiving school of the reasons for the pupil's expulsion.

### ***Procedures for all Expulsion Hearings***

1. A presentation of the evidence against the student is stated by the Hearing Officer
2. (Principal or Administrative designee) at the school.
3. A presentation by the student and parent or parent's designee (individual) of any defense or mitigating circumstances.
4. Submission of written statements from any person in defense of the student accepted by the Hearing Officer. The student may present witnesses and evidence in rebuttal of the school's allegation to the Hearing Officer.
5. The Hearing Officer records a summary of the facts and disputed evidence.
6. Failure of the pupil and/or parent to appear at the hearing without good cause constitutes a waiver of the hearing and the case is reviewed by the Hearing Officer (Principal or designee). A decision is rendered on the evidence available.
7. On the day of the hearing, a presentation detailing the reasons for the decision is given to the student and parent or guardian. Formal findings from the hearing officer will be mailed within 10 days of the hearing. The decision may authorize return to school at an earlier date, and may include an alternative educational plan or an evaluation request under Chapter 766.



## Continuum of Consequences for Specific Behaviors (Elementary)

Behavior Support Services and Reset Protocols	Sent home for day or possible suspension	Suspension
	Insubordination in Behavior Support Room after a call	Physical aggression to staff
Pushing or kicking desk/chair	Violently pushing/kicking or flipping desk/chair	Harming others while pushing/kicking furniture
Hands on (pushing, cheese necking non-malicious)	Hitting (2-4, K/1 with malicious intent)	Fighting
Taking things off of the wall/breaking pencils/doodling on desk	Intentionally drawing on chair/desk/floor, breaking teacher materials	Destruction/Vandalism of school property
Minor throwing (paper, throws crayon to floor, etc)	Throwing objects (targeting)	Harming others while throwing objects
Stealing (first incident - minor stealing)	Stealing (repeated minor offenses)	Stealing (Major offense or repeat offender)
Drawing threatening pictures (one time offense)	Making fake weapons and threatening others	Bringing weapons and threatening others (real or plastic gun, knives etc.)
Disrespect towards teacher (yelling at or written)	Profanity/degrading remarks towards staff/student	Threatening to harm staff/physical aggression to staff
Walking out of class (standing by the door)	Walking out of the classroom	Walking out of the building
Large crying fit (refusal to leave)	Having to be carried out of the room	Crying fit and endangering other students

\*These consequences may be assigned for other behaviors not listed on this chart.

## Alternative Behavior Plan Continuum

First Incident	Process incident Parent Conference with Administration Student Behavior Contract (10 FR calls) 1 Day OSS
Second Incident	Process incident Parent Contact 3 Day OSS
Third Incident	Process incident Parent Contact 5 Day OSS
Fourth Incident	Process incident Parent Contact 7 Day OSS
Fifth Incident	Process incident Parent Contact 10 Day OSS Expulsion Hearing

\*An incident may be a series of behaviors or one single behavior that creates a large school disruption. 3 class removals in a week will serve as an incident.

\*Level 2 behaviors

*\*A parent signature is not required for the plan to go into action.*

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*Signature of Student*

*Date*

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*Signature of Parent or Guardian*

*Date*

---

*Signature of Administrator*

*Date*

---

*Signature of Dean of Discipline and Culture*

*Date*

## **Appendix C: Computer and Tablet/Internet Policy**

Use of Vision's computer and tablet network is a privilege, not a right. Students may use the computers as long as they observe the rules as outlined below. Failure to follow these rules may result in loss of computer network privileges, detention, or suspension.

1. The network is to be used only for activities that support education and research related to assigned schoolwork.
2. When communicating with others on the Internet, students must be polite and appropriate at all times.
3. The network is not to be used for any illegal purpose. Illegal activities include tampering with the computer hardware or software, unauthorized entry into computers, or knowledgeable vandalism or destruction of computer files. Such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law.
4. Copyrighted material is not to be copied without permission. Copyright laws and rules regarding software, information, and attribution of authorship are to be respected. No software other than what is provided by the school may be installed.
5. Any use of the network, which involves obscenity, profanity, racism, sexism, personal attacks, harassment, or offensive messages or pictures is prohibited.
6. Passwords and/or accounts are not to be shared. Violations of the policy that can be
7. traced to an individual account will be treated as the sole responsibility of the owner of the account.
8. It is against policy to attempt to use the accounts and passwords of others, using pseudonyms, anonymity or attempting to access information of others.
9. It is against policy to knowingly degrade the performance of the network. Electronic chain letters and "mail-bombs" are prohibited.
10. Students who have knowledge of violations of these policies must report the information immediately to the teacher, principal, or system operator.

## Appendix D: Vision Academy Visitor/Volunteer Contract



As a visitor and/or volunteer, I agree to adhere to this agreement at all times. I agree to:

- Sign in and out in the main office
- Model, support and affirm the principles that the school instills, such as
  - o Be Safe
  - o Be Responsible
  - o Be Respectful
- Redirect only your child
- Communicate with all children in a manner that is positive and encouraging
- Turn off/Mute all cell phones and other electronic devices
- Refrain from taking videos or photos
- Maintain professional in my appearance and communication with staff and students
- Allow the school staff to continue with their work and schedule a meeting if there is something I would like to discuss
- Make clearly visible my volunteer name tag/badge
- Notify school staff immediately if a child reports thoughts of suicide and/or abuse
- Get the assistance of a school staff member if there is a situation that requires physical intervention
- Adhere to the smoke/drug free environment

I understand that if I fail to meet the expectations outlined above, the school has the right to restrict my access during future visits and/or volunteer opportunities.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Appendix E: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- ✓ Parents have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

- ✓ Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

- ✓ Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34

CFR § 99.31):

- o School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- o Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- o Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- o Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- o Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- o Accrediting organizations;
- o To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- o Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- o State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a monthly newsletter, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school. Vision Academy informs parents of their FERPA rights through the Vision Academy Family Handbook.

# Appendix F: Title I Documents

## Title 1 School - Parent Contract

The mission of Vision Academy @ Riverside is to provide a rigorous and relevant college-preparatory program, grounded in our belief that every child can succeed at high levels. With an understanding of the strengths each student has, we reinforce that every individual has a part in our family's success. United, our students will consistently meet and exceed academic standards.

In order for this mission to be lived every day at Vision Academy @ Riverside the following are agreed upon roles and responsibilities that each stakeholder will carry out to support student success in school and in life.

### Staff will:

- Create a safe, welcoming and supportive classroom for each learner.
- Teach, practice and model the behaviors for learning.
- Build strong relationships with every child and every family.
- Communicate with and support students and families through monthly newsletters, midterm and quarterly reports as well as Parent-Teacher conferences.
- Recognize effort, growth and achievement in every learner.
- Provide students with a rigorous curriculum, integrating Core Knowledge and the
- Indiana Academic standards.

### Students will:

- Come to school every day, prepared and ready to do their very best.
- Practice and model for others the behaviors for learning.
- Respect themselves, their classmates, their teachers and our school.
- Work hard and do their personal best at all times.
- Take responsibility for their learning and conduct.

### Families will:

- Help children arrive on time and prepared for school every day.
- Read with children, help with homework and check book bags nightly.
- Reach out and respond to teacher and school communications.
- Attend student parent-teacher conferences biannually.
- Talk daily with children about school and encourage them to do their best.
- Participate in school activities, volunteer and visit classrooms.

## ***Title I Parents' Right to Know Letter***

July 31, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1111(h)(6) *PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW*, this is a notification from Vision Academy to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to request and receive information in a timely manner regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers. This information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers shall include the following:

- If the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught;
- If the teacher is teaching under emergency or temporary status in which Indiana qualifications and licensing criteria are waived;
- The teachers baccalaureate degree major, graduate certification, and field of discipline;
- and
- Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications

If at any time your student has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher that is not highly qualified, you will be notified by the school of this information. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Villecco or Mrs. Mulugeta @ (317) 632-2006.

Sincerely,

*Alycia Villecco*  
Elementary Principal (K-4)

*Bilen Mulugeta*  
Middle School Principal (5-8)

## **Appendix G: Walker Policy and Release**

My signature on the online registration packet represents my consent allowing my child to walk home after school without supervision by Vision Academy following a regularly scheduled school day directly after dismissal for the 2025-2026 school year. I understand the physical nature and risks associated with walking home after school without supervision from Vision and represent that my child is in good health and proper physical condition to do so. I understand the risks associated with allowing my child to walk home, including but not limited to theft of property, permanent disability, paralysis, death or becoming the victim of a crime, and acknowledge that if I believe the conditions are unsafe, I will immediately discontinue allowing my child to walk home. There may be other risks either not known to me or not readily foreseeable at this time and I fully accept and assume on behalf of my child all such risks and responsibilities for injuries, damages or losses incurred by my child as a result of walking home.

In consideration of my child's opportunity to participate in this activity, I waive and release from any liability for my child's death, disability, personal injury, property damage, property theft, or actions of any kind which may occur while walking home from school, the following persons or entities: Vision Academy and its school board, teachers, employees, representatives and agents. I agree to defend, indemnify, hold harmless, and promise not to sue these released parties from any liabilities or claims as a result of participation in this activity, including but not limited to all damages, claims, losses, as well as all legal fees, costs and expenses incurred in the defense of such claims. I further waive all rights of subrogation.

This document shall be construed as broadly possible to the maximum extent permissible under Indiana law. In signing this release, I acknowledge and represent that I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING WALKER POLICY AND RELEASE, UNDERSTAND THAT I AM WAIVING SUBSTANTIAL LEGAL RIGHTS AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Children in grade K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade must be accompanied by a sibling in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade in order to participate. In the event that I wish to pick my child up from the regularly scheduled school day instead of having them walk home, I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the school office of that change.

Students that are walkers are to immediately leave school property after being dismissed. Students are not permitted to loiter on or around school property. Students that are approved to walk and are not off of school property by 2:45 M-Fri will be escorted back in the building. Students who are chronically escorted back in the building are subject to having their "Walker Privileges" revoked.

This policy is written for students who walk home from school. It is not to be used for students to walk to a car within close proximity to Vision Academy. Car riders are to be picked up from the school as outlined in the dismissal policy.

## **Appendix H: Indoor Air Quality Policies**

Indoor Air Quality Coordinator



Carvis Herron

United Schools of Indianapolis

3980 Meadows Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46205

317.550.3363 [cherron@unitedschoolsindy.org](mailto:cherron@unitedschoolsindy.org)

## Chemical Management Plan

This policy outlines procedures for the safe **purchasing, use, storage, and disposal of chemicals** in school buildings occupied by children, in compliance with **Indiana health and safety regulations**.

### A. Applicability

This plan applies to **all chemicals** purchased or used in **child-occupied school buildings**, including classrooms, laboratories, custodial areas, and maintenance rooms.

### B. Annual Inventory

- The **Director of Business Affairs (DBA)** will conduct a **site-wide chemical inventory** each year.
- The inventory identifies:
  - Expired, outdated, or unwanted chemicals for proper disposal
  - Any compliance issues with storage, labeling, or usage procedures
- The Chemical Management Policy will be reviewed for compliance during this process.

### C. Chemical Purchasing

All chemical purchasing will follow these procedures:

1. All chemicals must be purchased by the **Director of Business Affairs (DBA)** or an authorized designee.
2. The school follows a **First-In, First-Out (FIFO)** policy for chemical use.
3. The school will **not purchase chemicals** on the **Banned Chemical List**, including:
  - **Mercury and mercury-containing products**
4. Purchasing practices aim to **minimize student and staff exposure** to hazardous chemicals.

### D. Chemical Use

- **Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)** will be stored in binders in the **nurse's office** at each school location.
- MSDS files will be **updated annually** and as new chemicals are introduced.

Chemical use protocols include:

1. Chemicals must be mixed and used **according to the manufacturer's directions**.

- Use appropriate **measuring tools** or **direct mixing systems**.
  - Follow all **warning labels** and ensure **proper ventilation**.
2. Only **properly trained staff** may use hazardous chemicals.
  3. All **required notifications** (e.g., pesticide applications) will be provided in accordance with state regulations.

#### **E. Chemical Storage**

1. **Secondary containers** may only be used if they are **approved and properly labeled**.
2. All storage areas must be **well ventilated** and suitable for the chemicals stored.
3. **Incompatible or reactive chemicals** must be stored **separately**.
4. All hazardous chemicals must be stored in **locked areas** when not in use.

#### **F. Chemical Disposal**

1. Unwanted, unused, and expired chemicals must be **identified annually** (at minimum) and marked for disposal.
2. Disposal will:
  - Comply with **state and federal regulations**
  - Be funded through the school's **operating budget**

#### **G. Spills, Explosions, and Accidents**

In the event of a chemical emergency:

- **Call 911 immediately**
- Contact the **Indiana Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222**
- Follow all school **emergency response protocols** as trained

#### **Idling Vehicles on School Property**

The Indiana IAQ Rule 410 IAC 33-4-3 requires schools to adopt and enforce a policy limiting vehicle idling on school campuses. This policy is to limit vehicle emissions that might be brought into school buildings as mandated by 410 IAC 33-4-3. This will improve the health of students and staff through reduced exposure to these emissions.

Applicability

This policy applies to all public and private vehicles on the school campus.

Requirements:

- Drivers of vehicles are to turn off the engine if the vehicle is to be stopped more than

twenty minutes. Engine cool down and heat up periods are permitted, but are not to exceed twenty minutes.

- Exceptions are granted to local law enforcement and emergency vehicles. Law enforcement will be required to park their vehicles at least 50 feet from any door of the building.
- This policy will be included in the Family Handbook, the Staff Handbook, and posted on the website.

#### Violations:

- Any individual found to be violating this policy will be referred to the Director of Business Affairs (DBA) who will reach out to onsite local law enforcement for further action.

### **Live Animals in Schools**

Live animals with the exception of fish in aquariums are only to be in the school for educational purposes. At no time will animals considered dangerous be brought into the classrooms.

When an animal is to be brought into a classroom a note will be sent home with the students of that class notifying the parents that an animal will be present. It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the teacher or principal if their student is allergic to the animal.

If after an animal is brought into the classroom, the parent finds their student is allergic to the animal, the school will work with the parent and teacher to resolve the issue. Upon notice, the Principal will confer with the Teacher and determine what options are available including:

having the student transferred to a different classroom without animals or changing to a different species with no allergy problems, or not having an animal in the classroom.

The principal has the final authority to determine if it is appropriate to bring an animal into the classroom.

The teacher in charge of the animal shall be responsible for maintaining the animal and its cage.

### **Pest Control and Use of Pesticides**

United Schools of Indianapolis is committed to providing a safe environment for students. It seeks to prevent children from being exposed to pests and pesticides. While pesticides protect children from pests that may be found in the school and its surrounding grounds, under some circumstances they

may pose a hazard to children. Therefore, pest control practices may involve a variety of chemical and non-chemical methods that are designed to control pests effectively while minimizing potential pesticide exposure.

United Schools of Indianapolis will:

- A. annually inform parents and staff members of the Corporation's pest control policy as a provision in the staff and student handbook;
- B. provide the name and phone number of the person to contact for information regarding pest control;
- C. establish a registry of parents and staff members who want to receive advance notice
- D. of all pesticide use and provide such notice;
- E. provide notice of planned pesticide applications to parents and employees who have
- F. requested advance notice;
- G. maintain a written record for ninety (90) days of any pesticide applications.

United Schools of Indianapolis will provide notice to those in the registry at least two (2) school days prior to the date and time the pesticide application is to occur unless an emergency is declared. The notice will include the date and time of the pesticide application, the general area where the pesticide is to be applied and the telephone number to contact for more information.

In case of emergency pesticide applications, because of immediate threat to the public health, the school shall give written notice as soon as possible.

# Regulations Regarding Pesticide Use on School Property

## PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION REGISTRY

The Indiana Pesticide Review Board has regulations that impact how school corporations may use pesticides on school grounds. United Schools of Indianapolis follows these guidelines and we are inviting parents and guardians to join our Pesticide Notification Registry. By signing up for this registry, you will be notified at least 48 hours prior to a pesticide application at your child's school, subject to certain exceptions. If you would like to participate, please complete the required information below and return this form to:

United Schools of Indianapolis  
ATTN: Carvis Herron, Jr.  
3980 Meadows Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46205

You will be invited to sign up for this notification EACH SCHOOL YEAR.

### PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Parent/ Guardian Name

Student Name

Grade Level

School Name

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## Appendix I: Weapons on School Premises Policy

No one will possess, conceal, store or use a weapon(s) in school buildings and other buildings owned, occupied or controlled by the school district, on school premises, in school-provided transportation, and at activities under school supervision, subject to the following exceptions:

- These prohibitions will not apply where state or federal law prohibits a school district from restricting an individual's right to possess a firearm or other weapon in such locations, and
- All off-duty sworn, active and certified Indiana law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers currently certified may possess, conceal, or store firearms in or on the grounds of a school or within 1,000 feet of the grounds of a District school if otherwise permitted by law.

A weapon is defined as any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing death or great bodily harm; any ligature (e.g., cord, wire) or other instrumentality used on the throat, neck, nose, or mouth of another person to impede, partially or completely, breathing or circulation of blood; any electric weapon; any destructive device; or any other object which by the manner in which it is used or intended to be used can cause bodily injury or property damage. A look-alike weapon (e.g., toy gun, water gun) may also be considered as a weapon under this policy if it is used, possessed, concealed or stored in a manner that is intended to alarm, intimidate or threaten another person.

When implementing this policy, school administrators and other employees should be aware that state-issued licenses permitting certain private individuals to lawfully carry a handgun or other designated weapons in various public places generally do not permit the possession, carrying or use of such weapons in schools or on school premises.

Students found in violation of this policy will be suspended from school and reported to local law enforcement officials for prosecution under state criminal laws and may be referred to for expulsion. A student who possesses a firearm while at school or while under the supervision of a school authority will be expelled from school for not less than one year as required by state and federal laws. The School may modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

School employees found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Employee Handbook and Board policy, and will be reported to local law enforcement officials for prosecution under state criminal laws.

Any other individual found in violation of this policy will be reported to local law enforcement officials for prosecution under state criminal laws and may be banned from school property.

LEGAL REF.: Indiana Code

Ind. Code Ann. § 35-47-9-2

Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994

18 U.S. Code §(921(a)(3)

18 U.S. Code §(922(q)(2)(A) & (B)

*S.B. v. Seymour Cmty. Sch.*, 97 N.E.3d 288, 294 (Ind. Ct. App.), *reh'g denied* (June 21, 2018), *transfer denied*, 111 N.E.3d 197 (Ind. 2018).

## Appendix J: Student Cell Phone Contract

STUDENT

CELL

PHONE

CONTRACT

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

According to Vision Academy's Family Handbook, the student cell phone policy states:

Electronic devices, cell phones included, are not allowed to be on or carried by the student during the school day. They must be turned off and stored in a locker or cubby. If a teacher or staff member sees or hears a prohibited or unapproved electronic device, they will send the student to administration where it will be confiscated. A parent or guardian must come to school to pick up the item. Repeated instances of violating the school's cell phone policy will result in a school-specific progressive system of consequences – Cell Phone Contract. The school and its staff members are not responsible for lost or stolen property of any kind, including prohibited items that may have been confiscated.

Your child, \_\_\_\_\_, has had repeated instances of violating the school's cell phone policy.

In an effort to reduce disruptions caused by your child's cell phone use, we are asking your child to turn in their phone upon arrival to \_\_\_\_\_ (or other administrator) and retrieve their phone upon dismissal. The phone will be in a locked drawer. This way, the student is able to bring their phone, but also comply with our cell phone policy. This is not a punishment, however a proactive measure.

By signing this contract, you agree to have your child turn in their phone daily until further notice.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## Appendix K: Technology Agreement

The policies, procedures and information within this document apply to all computers and electronic devices provided by United Schools of Indianapolis.

Teachers may set additional classroom rules for the use of any electronic or communications equipment used in their classrooms.

You are receiving a tablet/laptop to enhance understanding, increase your learning, and to prepare you for the world of 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It was purchased by the school to be used as an educational tool and needs to be used that way during classes and study hall. Failing to use your school laptop/tablet for educational use at any time will result in the loss of computer privileges.

### 1. RECEIVING YOUR LAPTOP

Laptops will be distributed each fall. Laptops will be collected at the end of each school year for inspection, maintenance, cleaning and software installations.

If your laptop has been damaged or defaced, you will be fined respectively for the damage at the end of each quarter.

If a student laptop is not returned during year-end check-in or upon transferring out of district, the administration will be in charge of seeing this equipment is returned in a timely manner. The student account will be billed for the full cost of the technology.

### 2. TAKING CARE OF YOUR LAPTOP

Students are responsible for the general care of the laptop they have been issued by the school. Laptops that are broken or fail to work properly must be reported immediately to the school.

#### 2.1 General Precautions

- ☐ No food or drink is allowed next to your laptop while it is in use.
- ☐ Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the laptop.
- ☐ Students should never carry laptops while the screen is open, unless directed to do so by a teacher. Laptops should be shut down before moving them to conserve the battery life.
- ☐ **Laptops must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels that are not the property of the school.**
- ☐ Laptops must never be left in an unlocked area.
- ☐ Students are responsible for keeping their laptop's battery charged for the duration of each school day.
- ☐ Failure to comply with the General Precautions will result in being required to "check out" the student laptop from the classroom cart for 2 weeks with the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense being the loss of laptop privileges for 3 weeks. Students will need to complete all electronic assignments with paper copies during this time.

#### 2.2 Screen Care



The laptop screens can be damaged if subjected to rough treatment. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure on the screen.

- ☐ Do not lean on top of the laptop when it is closed.
- ☐ Do not place anything near the laptop that could put pressure on the screen.
- ☐ Do not place anything in the carrying case that will press against the cover.
- ☐ Do not poke the screen.
- ☐ Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid. (e.g. pens, pencils, disks).
- ☐ Clean the screen with a soft, dry cloth or anti-static cloth.
- ☐ Do not “bump” the laptop against lockers, walls, floors, etc. as it will eventually break the screen.
- ☐ Do not carry the laptop by the screen!

### 2.3 Laptop Keyboard Key Removal

Students who remove and move the keys from their keyboard are interfering with their learning process. In addition, scholars who have keys that need to be replaced will be charged a fee at the end of the school year.

## 3. USING YOUR LAPTOP AT SCHOOL

Laptops are intended for use at school each day. In addition to teacher expectations for laptop use, school messages, announcements, calendars and schedules may be accessed using the laptop computer. Students must be responsible to bring their laptop to all classes, unless specifically instructed not to do so by their teacher.

### 3.1 Charging Your Laptop's Battery

It is the student's responsibility to make sure their laptop is plugged up each evening to their homeroom teacher's laptop cart. Students who do not charge their laptops will not be able to use their laptop on that particular day.

### 3.2 Screensavers

Students are expected to keep the standard and default screensaver on their screen. Anything else can cause a classroom disruption.

- ☐ Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver.
- ☐ Presence of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drug, gang related symbols or pictures will result in disciplinary actions.

### 3.3 Sound, Music, Games, or Programs

- ☐ Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from the teacher for instructional purposes. If headphones are desired, the student is responsible for providing their own pair as stated on the school supply list.
- ☐ Music is NOT allowed to be saved on the laptop.
- ☐ Internet Games are not allowed. NO games can be installed.
- ☐ Do not save any music, games, or programs to the hard drive. All software

must be district provided. These software programs may be saved to the external sources (Jump/USB drives).

#### 4. MANAGING YOUR FILES & SAVING YOUR WORK

##### 4.1 Saving data to Removable Storage Devices

Students should backup their work at least weekly using removable file storage/flash drive (also on the School Supply List).

##### 4.2 Network Connectivity

United Schools of Indianapolis cannot guarantee that our network will be up and running 100% of the time. In the rare case that the network is down, the school will not be responsible for lost or missing data.

#### 5. ACCEPTABLE USE

##### 5.1 General Guidelines

- (1) Student Computers are for the educational benefit of the student, not to provide entertainment. During classes the computer is to be used strictly for educational purposes. They are not to be used for playing games, watching movies, videos, listening to music, communicating via social media sites or for any other recreational/entertaining uses.
- (2) Students are responsible for the ethical and educational use of the technology resources of the school.
- (3) Access to USI Technology is a privilege and not a right. Each student and/or parent will be required to follow the Use of Technology Resources Policy.
- (4) Transmission of any material that is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, and computer viruses.
- (5) Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer, or the files of another user, without the consent of the individual, campus administrator, or technology administrator, will be considered an act of vandalism.
- (6) By passing or attempting to bypass the schools filtering software to access filtered sites will be subject to disciplinary action.
- (7) Electronic bullying at school will require the school's bullying disciplinary action.
- (8) Students may not play games, load or download software, music, or pictures on their computers.
- (9) All use of the Internet must comply with the school's guidelines.

##### 5.2 Privacy and Safety

- ☐ Do not go into chat rooms.
- ☐ Do not open, use, or change computer files that do not belong to you.
- ☐ Do not reveal your name, phone number, home address, social security number, or passwords of other people.
- ☐ If you inadvertently access a web site that contains obscene, pornographic or

otherwise offensive material, notify a teacher, Administrator, or Principal immediately so that such sites can be blocked from further access.

### 5.3 Student Responsibilities

- ☐ Students are responsible at all times for their laptops, whether at home or school.
- ☐ Students may not loan laptop components to other students.
- ☐ Students may not play games. Load or download any software, music, pictures, etc. on the laptop.
- ☐ Students are responsible for charging and maintaining battery units in laptop daily.
- ☐ Laptops come with a standardized image already loaded. These images may not be altered or changed.
- ☐ All use of the internet must comply with district guidelines.

### Damage Caused by Carelessness

Much of the damage that occurs is the result of student carelessness. Laptop damage resulting from carelessness will be assessed the fees listed below.

### 5.6 Parental Responsibility

- ☐ Parents will be responsible for reviewing the Acceptable Use Policy with their child(ren)/student(s).

### 5.7 Student Discipline

If a student violates any part of the above policy, he/she will be put on the following disciplinary steps:

Step 1 - Student will lose the option of using his/her laptop for 2 weeks.

Step 2 - Student will lose the option of using his/her laptop for 3 weeks and serve a mandatory detention. The student will be given their laptop back once the 3-week time period is over and they have served their detention.

Step 3 - Student will lose the privilege of using his/her laptop for the remainder of the school year.

## 6. PROTECTING/STORING YOUR LAPTOP COMPUTER

### 6.1 Storing Your Laptop

When students are not using their laptops during the school day, they should be stored in the location designated by the school (i.e. lockers, desks or the classroom cart). Nothing should be placed on top of the laptop, when stored in the locker. Students must store their laptop in the laptop cart in their homeroom class each evening and or prior to exiting the school.

### 6.2 Laptops Left in Unsupervised Areas

Under NO circumstances should laptops be left in unsupervised areas. Unsupervised areas include the school grounds and campus, the lunchroom, computer lab, locker rooms, library, unlocked classrooms, dressing rooms and hallways. Any computer left in these areas is in the danger of being stolen. If a laptop is found in an unsupervised area, it will be taken to the office. This will count as an offense against the student.

#### **7. COST OF REPAIRS**

Students will be held responsible for damage to their laptops including, but not limited to: broken screens, hinges, keys, etc.

### **Student Pledge for Laptop Use**

1. I will take good care of my laptop.
2. I will never leave the laptop unattended.
3. I will never loan/share my laptop with other individuals.
4. I will know where my laptop is at all times.
5. I will place my laptop back in the laptop cart to charge every day.
6. I will keep food and beverages away from my laptop since they may cause damage to the computer.
7. I will not disassemble any part of my laptop (including the keyboard) or attempt any repairs.
8. I will protect my laptop and carry it appropriately.
9. I will use my laptop in ways that are appropriate and educational.
10. I will not deface my laptop or place decorations on it.
11. I understand that my laptop is subject to inspection at any time without notice and remains the property of the school.
12. I will follow the policies outlined in the Use of Technology Resources Policy.
13. I will be responsible for all damage or loss caused by neglect or abuse.
14. I agree to pay for the replacement items in accordance to the list of Cost of Repairs.
15. I agree to return the school's laptop in good working condition.

**I agree to the stipulations set forth in the above documents including the Laptop Policy, Procedures and Information, the Acceptable Use Policy, and the Student Pledge for Laptop Use.**