



## 2022-2023 Parent and Student Handbook

### Admission Policy

Sierra Nevada Academy Charter School (SNACS) shall not base admission on intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, or discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, race, religion or disability.

### Enrollment

#### New School Year Enrollment

During the month of April, parents of children attending SNACS will be asked to re-enroll their children for the following school year. Enrollment for the following year will then be determined as follows:

1. All re-enrolling students will be placed first;
2. Siblings of re-enrolling students will be placed next;
3. A **lottery** will be held to fill all remaining openings. The lottery will consist of the names of all students whose parents have inquired about the school throughout the year and have completed a tour. An enrollment packet must be completed and all accompanying information / documents are required. For each grade, those names will be drawn from a "hat" until the numbers of spaces available in the class are filled. Parents of the students chosen shall be notified by telephone that their child has a space in a class. The parent will then be given three (3) school or business days, depending on whether school is in or out of session, to provide any of the remaining required paperwork to complete the enrollment process. The names of those students who are not chosen will be placed on a waiting list, with the name of whose parent(s) made the first inquiry at the top of the list, by date of completed paperwork.

#### Mid-Year Enrollment

During the school year, if a parent desires their child to attend SNACS, and the class in which the child needs placement is full, that child will be placed on a waiting list if the parent elects to do so. An enrollment packet must be completed prior to being placed on a waiting list. This list shall include the grade level needed and the date and time that the parent put their child on the list. When a space is available in a class, the enrollment officer will refer to the waiting list and call the parents of the first child on the list. If the parent passes on enrollment at that time, the parents of the next child will be called, and so on. In the event that there is a sibling of a child attending SNACS on the waiting list, the sibling has first priority, regardless of date and time placed on the waiting list. Students will be enrolled into



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a given classroom based upon openings only as a result of student withdrawals in the given classroom. However, no more students than the number approved in the charter shall be enrolled in a classroom.

### **Special Needs Assessments**

All students who “win” the lottery, or who can be enrolled according to the waiting list who require special education services, as notated on the enrollment form and the School Services Questionnaire, must meet with the Education Director and the Special Education Director for consultation prior to enrollment of the student. While we do not preclude or predetermine any student, SNACS is one school that offers special education services within the WCSD. Trained faculty meet with parents to inform them of services currently offered. Anyone who chooses to enroll may do so. However, if SNACS IEP/504 Team believes the placement at our site isn't an appropriate placement or if it may be a financial burden to the school, SNACS administrators will request the Board of Governance to request a referral to the WCSD Board of Trustees for appropriate placement within the WCSD.

### **Enrollment Documentation Required**

Upon enrollment of your child at SNACS, and after an initial tour of the school has been conducted, the following documentation must be provided to the office before the child can attend:

1. Completed New Student Enrollment Form or Updated Student Data Form if Returning Student
2. Proof of Child's Identity and Birth
3. Proof of Parent's Identity
4. Proof of Residency
5. Child's Shot Record (issued by Washoe County Health Department)
6. Insurance Card
7. Signed Expeditionary Learning Field/Activity Trip Consent Form
8. Sign Parent Permission to Use the SNA Internet Access
9. Signed Academic Program Agreement
10. Custody Orders as Applicable
11. Free/Reduced Lunch Application
12. School Services Form
13. Safe School Pledge
14. Family Volunteer/Participation Agreement
15. Student Success Inventory
16. Getting to Know Your Child



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17. How Will Your Child Get Home? & Who May Pick Your Child Up from School
18. Health Inventory
19. Volunteer application, ID copy, and fingerprints if the parent elects to volunteer regularly in the school

### **Withdrawal**

If, during the school year, it becomes necessary to withdraw your student from SNACS, a Withdrawal Report must be completed by the legal parent / guardian. If the legal parent / guardian is going to withdraw the student, we ask that the school be notified at least three days prior.

If you fail to inform SNACS that you are withdrawing your child, SNACS may be required to report the child as a truant or a drop-out. Please be aware that if your child is absent for 10 consecutive days without notification to the school, your child will be automatically withdrawn and the proper authorities will be notified (per NAC 387.200) (2)(e).

SNACS will forward your child's records to his/her new school upon receipt of a Request for Records from the new school. SNACS will provide you with your child's shot record and a copy of their birth certificate and a copy of their withdrawal report upon their withdrawal from SNACS.

### **Student Health / Wellness**

Should your child become ill or hurt at school, we have a clinical aide or designee who will attend to the child's immediate needs. However, a sick child belongs at home so that he/she can rest and feel better before returning to school.

If your child becomes ill or is hurt at school we will contact you, if applicable, to take him/her home in a timely manner.

If your child needs to take any form of medication at school, a signed note from the parent along with a consent/request form signed by the physician must be presented in the office. Medication will be kept and dispensed through the office. (See Medications page below) Please contact us, to discuss further specifics regarding your child's medical needs if need be.

Any child with a fever of 100.6 degrees or higher will be sent home and will need to remain out of school until the child is fever free (without the help of medicine) for a 24-hour period. THIS IS A WASHOE COUNTY SERVICES MANDATED POLICY- not that entirely of SNACS. Any student who presents with flu-like symptoms will be "sent home" (parent or guardian will be called to pick child up ASAP) and remain home until the symptoms have gone away completely for at least 24 hours without the help of medication. If your child vomits during



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the night or in the morning before school, please keep him or her home for 24 hours after vomiting stops so that he/she can rest and feel better before returning to school. Our goal is to work together as a community to keep all of our children free from sickness, especially from spreading it throughout the school.

### **Attendance**

This attendance policy is based on Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 392.122, as revised in the 2003 legislative session. Pursuant to NRS 392.122(4), all parents or legal guardians and all pupils are required to comply with the provisions governing attendance and truancy of pupils as set forth in NRS 392.040 to 392.160, inclusive, and any other rules concerning attendance and truancy as adopted by the Board of Governance of SNACS.

Recognizing that being a student at SNACS is a choice made by parents and students, and recognizing that attendance is vital to each of SNACS students' ability to achieve academic growth at their fullest potential, the following attendance policy is set forth:

1. According to NRS 392.040(1), parent(s) or legal guardian(s) are required to send children between the ages of 7-17 years old to school during all the time that school is in session. NRS 392.130(1) provides that a student is truant if s/he is absent from the school where s/he is enrolled if s/he is absent without permission of the school, unless s/he is physically or mentally unable to attend. SNACS Board of Governance has established a policy requiring students to be in attendance at least **90%** for promotion to the next grade or earning credit. That means that a student **MUST** be present at least 157.5 of the 175 school days.
2. If a student falls below **90%** attendance at any time throughout the school year, families will be notified and specific measures could occur if the student's attendance doesn't increase above **90%**. This could include meetings with administration, referral to SARB\*, Saturday school, loss of privileges, etc.
3. All students must be in their seat when the bell rings. If you arrive late in the morning, you must check in with the office before reporting to class. Students who are tardy to school will have consequences. Students who are continually late to school may be suspended and/or expelled from school. It is crucial that your child report to school on time. If you or your child has shown difficulty arriving to school on time, there may be need of a consultation with administration to determine an action plan so the child is on school on time.
4. When a student is absent, the legal parent / guardian must call the school in the morning (preferably before 9:00 a.m.) to excuse your absence.



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### Attendance Procedures

- Families must call the school each day their student(s) is absent to acknowledge their absence and ensure their safety.
- Families must provide a verbal or written excuse explaining the reason for the absence prior to, during, or within three days after an absence.
- **All absences will count against the student's chronic absenteeism, and the 90% rule.**
- Students are required to complete make up work from the absence, however the absence will still count towards chronic absenteeism and possible retention or failure.
- If the student is absent due to illness and is seen by a health care professional, families must provide a note from the health care professional to the school. This absence will count against the student's chronic absenteeism
- If a student is going to be absent for 3 or more days, families must provide a note to school two days prior to their absence. This absence will count against the student's chronic absenteeism.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule medical/dental appointments after school whenever possible. Proof of the appointment must be provided when the student returns to school.

*\*\*Families are encouraged to notify their school of any changes to their contact information, including phone numbers, email address, home address, and emergency contact information.*

The school has a right to request a parent/guardian conference if medical absences become excessive and if there is no documentation of a health concern. It is extremely important that parents/guardians provide a note from a medical professional if available and always notify the school of an absence due to a medical reason.

It should be noted that parents/ guardians must send a note or call the school regarding any absences. This must be done within three days after the student returns to school.

Students who suffer from a medically diagnosed chronic illness that excessively affects their attendance will be referred back to Washoe County School District to receive educational services that SNACS cannot provide.



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### Make-up Work

- Teachers can still provide make-up work (Instruction Related Activities or Concepts Missed) for students who miss school.
- Students will have the number of days absent plus one to make up missing work beginning on the day the teacher provides the missed assignments to the student.
- Once the teacher has input that the Instruction Related Activities or Concepts have been returned/grasped and are complete, the Instruction Related Activities Tracker will change the attendance code to reflect that the work has been made up. But these absences will remain on the student's record.
- The change consists of two codes, **Instruction Related Activities or Concepts Missed (IRA)** and **Instruction Related Activities or Concepts Missed in Excess of 10 Days (MET)**
- Both codes will count against the student's possible retention or failure as well as toward chronic absenteeism.
- However, administration may review these entries and may take them into consideration when determining retention or failure.
  - Attendance appeals are available at both the high school and middle school level for extenuating circumstances and are at the discretion and approval of the principal.
  - NRS states that administration and teacher have the final decision on whether a student should be retained. Make-up work can be considered in the final decision-making process.

### Two/Three-Day Rule

If a student is absent, unexcused, more than two days, or misses instruction more than 3 days, during a school quarter (depending on grade level) and continues to be absent during subsequent quarters, the student may, at the discretion of the Executive Director, or his/her designee:

1. Be the subject of a staff, legal parent / guardian and student conference to determine possible causes and solutions to the student's attendance problems wherein the student and the legal parent / guardian will be required to sign an attendance contract, which will include a notice that if the student continues to fail to comply with the attendance policy, s/he will be in jeopardy of failure to be promoted or failure to earn credit.



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2. Be strongly recommended to participate in alternative means of earning credit not necessarily offered at SNACS be reported to the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) for a hearing, wherein the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may be cited with a misdemeanor for failure to follow the legal requirements, as set forth above.
3. Be referred to the SNACS Board of Governance for review and advisement, including whether the student should be referred back to the district for placement.

### **Retention and Appeal Policy**

**Students who attend less than 90% of the year or course will be retained or not earn credit.**

Before a student is retained or fails to earn credit due to failure to comply with the attendance requirements, the Executive Director or her designee of SNACS shall provide written notice of the intended retention or denial of credit to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student. The notice will include a statement indicating that the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may request a review of the absences of the student and a statement of the procedure for requesting such a review. Upon the request for a review by the student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s), the Executive Director, or her designee, shall review the reason for each absence of the student upon which the intended denial of credit or promotion is based. After the review, the Executive Director shall credit toward the required days of attendance each day of absence for which:

1. There is evidence, or a written affirmation, by the parent or legal guardian of the student that the student was physically or mentally unable to attend school on the day of the absence (a doctor's note will be required at the discretion of the Executive Director or her designee), and the student completed the course-work requirements and is passing.
2. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may appeal a decision of the Executive Director, or his/her designee, to the SNACS Board of Governance.

In addition to the consequences set forth above, SNACS will implement a school-wide discipline policy for students who are tardy, missing instruction, or who have unverified absences, which are counted as trancies. The discipline policy will include such consequences as missing recess, detention, alternative learning placement, or attending Saturday School. SNACS needs all students to be in class on time as it is a distraction to the learning environment when students do not arrive on time and enter the classroom late.

### **School Record Request (FERPA)**

Legal parents / guardians have the right to review their child's cumulative school records. The procedure for reviewing such records is as follows:





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1. A natural parent(s) or guardian(s) of the student has the right to review and inspect the education records of the student.
2. The education record includes files, documents, and other materials maintained at and by SNACS, directly related to your child.
3. If the applicant desires to review and inspect the education records of the student, s/he shall file an application in writing to the Executive Director of SNACS. Said application is available in the front office.
4. Within five (5) days of the receipt of the request for access to education records, the applicant will be notified of a time, date and place at which such records will be made available. In no case shall access be withheld more than forty-five (45) days after the request has been made. Each time the term “days” is used in this policy, it refers to “school days” during the school year or to “work days” during the summer vacation.
5. The right of access specified above shall include: (1) the right to be provided a list of the types of education records which are maintained by SNACS and which are directly related to the student; (2) the right to inspect and review the contents of those records; (3) the right to obtain copies of those records, although the actual cost of reproduction shall be covered by the applicant; and (4) the right to a response from SNACS to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of those records.
6. If any material or documents in the student’s education record includes information more than one student, access shall be limited only to that part of the material which relates to the applicant’s student. If the material cannot be provided to the applicant, the applicant has the right to be informed of the specific information contained in the material.
7. If access to a student’s record is requested, such records may not be destroyed before the applicant has had the opportunity to review and inspect them.
8. At least annually, the school shall notify the parents enrolled in the school, or the student if eighteen years of age or older, of the basic rights of access and privacy as well as all information required under the regulations adopted pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 or any amendment thereto.
9. There may be additional procedures if the applicant challenges the content of the education records of the student at SNACS. Contact SNACS for a copy of these procedures.

### **Innovative Public Education**

SNACS provides students, parents, educators, and taxpayers with the opportunity to experience an alternative innovative system of public education. We are working to improve the learning of all pupils and by extension, and to strengthen alternative choices in public education throughout Nevada. To do this, we provide a unique educational program





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that revolves around our commitment to the philosophy that all children can learn and attain high standards in core academic subjects if given the opportunity to build on their natural strength and provided with a specific foundation of knowledge.

We believe the SNACS model provides such an innovative system. Every student is provided a *Personal Learning Plan (PLP)* based on assessments in reading, writing, and mathematics. Using the STAR testing tool, results from NWEA's three testing sessions, teacher input / assessments, and data from previous the SBAC examinations, students are provided with individual goals based on their performances on those previous examinations.

Students are reassessed at the end of each quarter and new goals are developed. Students' progress is monitored continually throughout the year. It is required that students and legal parents / guardians regularly meet with their child's teacher throughout the school year to establish and modify those goals as needed.

Within each classroom, students are placed in ability groups for reading, language arts, and mathematics. Teachers provide direct instruction to these small groups based on national and / or state standards.

### **Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS)**

SNACS provides students with an educational program that centers around positive incentives, individual recognition, group awareness, classroom celebrations, and school-wide models of excellence. This program holds all students enrolled to work towards attainable goals which are recognized in the aspect of: the individual learner, the group, the class, and all students school-wide. Each classroom has set guidelines for positive expectations and rewards / incentives. Further, all classrooms utilize a consistent program for all students. One practice is the use of the *Starbucks* program. Students receive *Starbucks* and are able to purchase items at the student store. All staff members disperse *Starbucks* to all students throughout all grades.

### **Behavioral Referrals to WCSD**

As a WCSD sponsored charter school, SNACS staff works closely with the WCSD Discipline Office whenever situations arise where students may warrant an emergency suspension.

### **NWEA / MAP (Measures of Academic Performances)**

SNACS has been incorporating the MAP / NWEA testing for nine consecutive years. The computer-based assessment program scores students in a variety of subjects, including mathematics, reading, and language usage throughout the school year. The MAP program



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will be used as one method to determine academic planning of students. The MAP assessment is given up to three times per year, depending on the student's grade level.

### **Renaissance / STAR / AR**

SNACS implements several components of the Renaissance School Curriculum including the STAR Accelerated Reader and STAR Early Literacy. The Computerized programs listed above are designed to help educators diagnose and intervene effectively, motivate and monitor daily practice in the listed areas by providing precise, reliable information on student and class progress. Educators can automatically generate and score assignments, identify areas requiring immediate intervention, and individualize instruction to ensure success for every student.

Students are assessed throughout the school year using the STAR program. They are provided with a Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) score for reading that is based on their STAR score. Students are provided with goals based on their ZPD and STAR scores. Students then read and test to reach their goals within their ZPD. Students are not permitted to test outside of their ZPD, without written permission from their teacher and / or the Education Director. Considerations for such testing is generally when a book is higher than ZPD and was read to the student or specific arrangements have been made to assist the student. The general purpose of the program is so students are challenged to read within their ZPD, not to read easier books than within their ZPD simply to make their goal and attain points. SNACS makes every attempt to reward students for reaching their reading goals as part of the AR program. Quarterly field trips are offered to students in first through eighth grade who meet their goal. Students who do not follow the protocols for the program may not be permitted to participate in such awards.

### **Expeditionary Learning**

We are integrating the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound Design Principles (ELOB) at SNACS in order to give our students personal experience and intellectual growth that enhances self-discovery. We are presently accomplishing this through camping trips each year. These are curriculum-based trips where students do their learning in nature. Grades are given to those who participate. Those who choose not to participate are required to attend school on campus. In addition, middle school students are encouraged to participate in the World Strides program. This ELOB program allows students to visit historic American locations around the country and study first-hand the principles they learn in school.



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### **Nevada State Standards (NSS)**

In addition to the principles of ELOB, Common Core Standards, and Core Knowledge, the teachers follow the required contents of the Nevada State Standards. This is a basis for all lessons instructed in the classroom. Teachers will also plan the year out with a curriculum mapping of when specific standards are instructed. For further information regarding the state standards, please visit the Nevada State Department of Education website.

### **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**

SNACS students are also instructed on the principles and measures of the national curriculum, also known as the Common Core Standards. At the present time, 46 of the 50 states have adopted CSS as their guideline for curriculum. The state of Nevada was one of the first states to adopt this program. All grade levels are instructed through CCSS, NSS, NGSS, Core Knowledge, and ELOB principles. For further information, related to CCSS, please visit their website at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org).

### **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**

In addition to the Nevada State Science Standards, teachers implement and create lessons around the Next Generation Science Standards. By 2017, all schools in Nevada are required to fully implement the NGSS. More information can be found at: [www.nextgenscience.org](http://www.nextgenscience.org).

### **Infinite Campus**

SNACS will participate in the Infinite Campus (IC) Student Database Management System as part of the WCSD. Each parent will receive a login and pw to log into their child's account. The system will allow parents to access student information in real time easing home to school communication. It is recommended that parents routinely view their child's progress using the IC portal. SNACS does offer free computer access if any households are unable to have Internet access.

### **Security Cameras**

SNACS has an existing security camera system throughout the school. This data-based system is used by administration for the purpose of monitoring student behavior. Images and recordings are filed for a period of time. SNACS administration utilizes this system to improve student behavior and target positive incentives and proper choice making. Only designated personal is able to view the recordings, and its contents are never broadcast outside the school premises, unless required by the court system. Parents are not permitted access to view the recordings unless subpoenaed by the court system, as this is a FERPA regulation.



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### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Teachers and parents work together as partners in education provide the best support for all students to succeed. Communication through Infinite Campus, email, and Parent/Teacher Conferences days all strengthen the relationship between home and school. Teachers and parents are expected to develop plans and goals and review achievements to provide students with a framework for success. The Nevada Department of Education approves early dismissal three times per year for this purpose. Parents are expected to attend all scheduled conferences. Parents, however, should not wait until designated conference days if they have a concern. They should schedule a meeting with teachers as soon as a concern arises to provide the best opportunity to communicate and resolve a concern.

### **Field Trips and Sierra View Church**

SNACS is proud to allow students to access a variety of field trips throughout the school year for educational purposes, or student rewards. Permission slips are sent home in advance of any upcoming field trips. Students are expected to attend all scheduled field trips. Additionally, Sierra View Baptist Church (located at 13600 Stead Boulevard) partners with SNACS for sharing of each other's space. Students will periodically participate in school-related events at Sierra View Church. Students will walk to the church with adult supervision. If a parent/guardian does not wish to have their child attend school-related events at the church, it is expected that the parent/guardian communicate in writing to the office. Unless we are specifically told, it is assumed that students are permitted to walk to Sierra View Church.

### **Grading System**

Students in grades K-2 will be given the following grades for their work:

- S+ - Satisfactory
- S - Satisfactory
- S- - Satisfactory
- I - Improvement Needed

Students in grades 3-8 will be given the following grades for their work:

- A+ - 95 – 100%
- A - 90 – 94%
- B+ - 85 – 89%
- B - 80 – 84%
- C+ - 75 – 79%
- C - 70 – 74%



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D+ - 65 – 69%  
D - 60 – 64%  
F - 59% and below

### **Ability Grouping**

At SNACS we believe that it is important to implement ability grouping into each of our classrooms. We assess each child when they enter the school to see where they would succeed best in the different subject areas. Each classroom usually has three or four ability groups. This means that in the classroom, there are different levels of achievement. One group may excel, another may be in the average range, and another may need extra support in developing their skill set. Keep in mind while a child may be at one ability level in a given subject, they may be at a different ability level in another subject. Parents and students see their progress as tracked on their PLP. Small groups allow for more individualized instruction so students achieve their highest potential.

### **Choice Centers**

At SNACS we also believe that students can learn from various skill sets through choice. Each classroom possesses different choice centers that facilitate learning through the use of a choice board. Teachers create and implement various centers weekly in each classroom. The centers are created around the Common Core Standards (CCS), Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), MAP Data, Developmentally Appropriate Practice, ELOB Principles, and Nevada State Standards (NSS).

### **Homework Policy**

Homework shall be part of all students' learning. The purpose of homework is to reinforce, enrich, and/or extend concepts that have been taught in the classroom. Homework will be regularly assigned. This regularly assigned homework will be appropriate to grade level, subject area, and ability. The general rule regarding homework is 10 minutes of homework per grade level.

The cooperation and support of students, parents, teachers and administrators is necessary for this policy to be effective. Students are expected to turn in homework daily. As middle school prepares students for the rigorous expectations in high school, the middle school teachers and administration has worked to develop a protocol for the middle school in regards to homework.

Students will be awarded or cons equated through the grading policy based on whether or not they complete and turn in their homework on time. Students turning in late work will receive academic penalties via lower grades as follows:



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Late 1 day = 70% of grade earned

Late 2 days = 50% of grade earned

Late 3 or more days = 0% of grade earned, will not be accepted.

Students should make arrangements for work missed due to absences (see attendance policy). Students may request extra credit assignments by determining a strategic academic plan with their teachers. Teachers do have the right to alter percentages of decreased grades for late work as determined for the best interest of the student, or as an IEP may state.

### **Student Responsibilities**

In completing homework, students are expected to:

- Maintain an accurate record of assignments using the daily tracker (formerly called agenda).
- Have necessary materials available.
- Schedule homework time that is compatible with other responsibilities.
- Accept responsibility to turn in assignments.
- Be responsible to ask for homework when absent from class.
- Communicate regularly with teachers on status of their academic performance(s).

### **Parent Responsibilities**

In helping children with homework, parents are encouraged to:

- Support the homework philosophy reinforcing the value of homework.
- Show interest in the student's work. Encourage and offer advice, but insist the work be completed through the student's own effort.
- Help the student develop good study habits by providing a suitable, well-lit area free from distractions. Encourage the student to set a specific study time.
- Make available necessary materials and resources.
- Check to see that homework assignments are brought home, completed and signed, if necessary.

### **SNACS High School Information (9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

#### DEFINITIONS

1. "Cohort" is a grouping of students who began high school in the same grade level (i.e., students who enter the 9th grade at the same time).
2. "Cohort Grad Year" is the group of students who are in in a four-year cohort beginning the freshman year defined by National Governor's Association definition which is marked in the District's electronic student records management system (Infinite Campus), not necessarily the year the student graduates from high school.
3. "BYU" is the online coursework platform vendor, approved by the State of Nevada,





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for students to complete required coursework/credit, in addition to the English ½ offered at SNACS. All SNACS high school students who are missing this credit/course are eligible for this course.

### **REGULATION**

#### **1. Standard High School Graduation Diploma (Standard Diploma)**

a. Beginning with the class of 2023-2024, twenty-three (23) credits are required to graduate. Of the twenty-three (23) required credits, seventeen (17) credits are required credits and six (6) are elective credits.

b. Beginning with the class of 2023, twenty-three (23) credits are required to graduate. Of the twenty-three (23) required credits, seventeen (17) credits are required credits and six (6) are elective credits. The required American Government credit shifts from 1 credit to .5 credit and .5 credit of Economics with Financial Literacy is added. The required courses are as follows: English language arts, including reading, composition and writing 4 credits Mathematics (see (d) below) 3 credits Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 2 Science 2 credits Physical Education/Any Mil Sci Course 2 credits World History/World Geography 1 credit American History 1 credit American Government .5 credit Economics with Financial Literacy .5 credit Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education 1 credit Flex Credit consisting of one full course credit in one of the following courses earned after the graduation requirement has been met: 4th year of Mathematics (Alg 2 or higher), 3rd year of Science, Social Studies (not in the graduation requirements), or Level II or III CTE 1 credit Computer Literacy .5credit Health Education/ Mil Sci (5th semester course) .5 credit TOTAL 17 credits

c. Mathematics. In order for a student to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1, either semester, he/she must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry, he/she must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2, he/she must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), a student can be enrolled in Pre-College Math.

d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed in this regulation must meet the District or State of Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) approved for that area of study.

#### **2. Alternative High School Graduation Diploma (Alternative Diploma)**

a. The Alternative Diploma is available to students with disabilities who are assessed on the Nevada Alternate Assessment (NAA) exam. Nevada's requirements for the Alternative Diploma align to the academic coursework requirements for students working to achieve a Standard Diploma. High school students who pursue the Alternative Diploma must complete the required number of credits and pass standards-aligned courses. Students who achieve an Alternative Diploma will be able to remain in school through the year of their 22nd birthday and those who choose to do so will continue Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 4 to receive services under the Individuals with





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Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA).

b. In order for a student to complete high school successfully and be awarded an Alternative Diploma from a District high school, the student must: i. Participate in the NAA exam; and ii. Accumulate a total of twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits through 2021 and twenty-three (23) credits beginning in 2022.

c. Beginning with the graduating class of 2023-2024, of the twenty-three (23) credits, seventeen (17) credits are required credits and six (6) are elective credits.

d. Beginning with the graduating class of 2023-2024, of the twenty-three (23) credits, the American Government credits is now .5 credit instead of 1.0 credit and Economics with Financial Literacy is added for .5 credit. The required courses are as follows: English language arts, including reading, composition and writing 4 credits Mathematics 3 credits Science 2 credits Physical Education/Any Mil Sci Course 2 credits American History 1 credit American Government .5 credit Economics with Financial Literacy .5 credit Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education 1 credit Computer Literacy .5 credit Health Education/ Mil Sci (5th semester course) .5 credit Flex Credit in one full course credit in one of the following areas after the graduation requirement has been met: 4th Mathematics (no level requirement), 3rd Science, Social Studies (not in the 2 credits Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 5 graduation requirements – World History counts as a flex), Level II or III CTE TOTAL 17 credits

e. In order for a student to advance to the next mathematics course, a student must pass the prerequisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course.

f. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the State or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.

g. Unlike students who use the Cohort Grad Year to define graduation year, students receiving the Alternative Diploma will use the actual year of graduation to determine what requirements need to be met.

h. In addition to the twenty-two and one-half (22 ½) credits earned through 2021 or the twenty-three (23) credits earned beginning in 2022, students must participate in the NAA exam.

i. Students seeking the Alternative Diploma are not required to take the ACT assessment plus writing or the Civics Exam.

j. The decision to seek an Alternative Diploma is determined by the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team and indicated in the student's IEP.

k. Once an Alternative Diploma is earned, a student cannot earn a Standard Diploma, nor can a student earn an Alternative Diploma once a Standard Diploma has been earned.

l. Students who earn the Alternative Diploma can continue to attend District schools or programs through the school year of their 22nd birthday. Students who earn the Standard Diploma cannot attend District schools or programs after earning the Standard Diploma.

m. The Alternative Diploma begins with the graduating class of 2019. 3. Honors Program/Honors High School Graduation Diploma (Honors Diploma)

a. The Honors Program is designed to enhance the academic preparation of the student. This program is beneficial for the student who is preparing for college entrance



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examinations and qualifying for admission to a college or university. Upon satisfactory completion of Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 6 these special Honors Diploma requirements, the student will receive a special Honors Diploma.

b. Honors Diploma Requirements:

i. Total Credits Required – twenty-four (24);

ii. Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) – 3.4 weighted or unweighted (with no course failures during junior or senior years);

iii. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. The exact assessment is listed in the annual CCR assessment informational pamphlet provided by the Nevada Department of Education; and

iv. Of the twenty-four (24) credits, twenty (20) credits are required credits and four (4) credits are elective credits.

v. Beginning with the class of 2023, the American Government requirement has shifted from 1.0 credit to .5 credit and Economics with Financial Literacy was added for .5 credit. The required courses are as follows: English language arts, including reading, composition, and writing 4 credits Mathematics (including Algebra 2) 4 credits Science (2 credits must be in biology, chemistry, or physics) 3 credits Foreign Language (must be in same language) 2 credits Physical Education/Any Mil Sci Course 2 credits Social Studies - including World History/World Geography, U.S. History, American Government (.5 credit), and Economics with Financial Literacy (.5 credit) 3 credits Art/Humanities or CTE 1 credit Computer Literacy .5 credit Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 7 Health Education/ Mil Sci (5th semester course) .5 credit TOTAL 20 credits

c. Eight (8) credits must be earned from among those courses which are designated as Honors, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate (IB), or other courses which are designated as fulfilling this portion of the Honors Diploma requirements in the specific course description as approved by the District's Curriculum and Instruction Department.

d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.

e. Students may not have a grade of "F" on the transcript in the 11th or 12th grade. However, students may have a grade of "U" on the transcript in the 11th or 12th grade.

4. Advanced High School Graduation Diploma (Advanced Diploma)

a. To receive a State of Nevada Advanced Diploma evidencing graduation from high school, in addition to participating in the CCR assessment, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) credits for required courses and six (6) credits for elective courses for a total of at least twenty-four (24) credits and have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale, weighted or unweighted, for all units of credit applicable toward graduation.



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- b. State Advanced Diploma Requirements:
- i. Total Credits Required – twenty-four (24); and
  - ii. Cohort Grad Year 2023-2024 and after must participate in the College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. The exact assessment is listed in the annual CCR assessment informational pamphlet provided by the Nevada Department of Education.; and Cumulative 3.25 GPA (weighted or unweighted); and
  - iii. Of the twenty-four (24) credits, eighteen (18) credits are required credits and six (6) credits are elective credits. iv. Beginning with the class of 2023 the American Government requirement shifted from 1.0 credit to .5 credit and Economics with Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 8 Financial Literacy was added for .5 credit. The required courses are as follows. English language arts, including reading, composition, and writing 4 credits Mathematics (see (c) below) 4 credits Science 3 credits Physical Education/Any Mil Sci Course 2 credits World History/World Geography 1 credit American History 1 credit American Government .5 credit Economics with Financial Literacy .5 credit Art/Humanities or CTE 1 credit Computer Literacy .5 credit Health Education/ Mil Sci (5th semester course) .5 credit TOTAL 18 credits
- c. In order for students to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1 either semester, they must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry, they must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2, they must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), students can be enrolled in Pre-College Math. To graduate, students would need at a minimum: 1) Algebra 1 both Semester 1 and Semester 2; 2) Geometry 1 and 2; and 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math: Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 9 a) If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and Pre College-Math and failed, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may consider an exception; b) If a student transfers in to the District during his/her senior year and has not had the opportunity to take the suggested courses, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may consider an exception; and c) The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn an Advanced Diploma. 4) The total of four (4) math credits must be earned to earn an Advanced Diploma.
- d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District's or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.
  - e. These Advanced Diploma requirements are effective with the students who enter the ninth grade during or after the 1999-2000 school year.
5. The College and Career Ready Diploma (CCR Diploma) has the following requirements:



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a. To receive a CCR Diploma evidencing graduation from high school, in addition to participating in the CCR assessment, a student must have earned a minimum of eighteen (18) credits for required courses and six (6) credits for elective courses for a total of at least twenty-four (24) credits and have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale, weighted or unweighted, for all units of credit applicable toward graduation.

i. Of the twenty-four (24) credits, eighteen (18) credits are required credits and six (6) credits are elective credits.

ii. Beginning with the class of 2023-2024 the American Government requirement shifted from 1.0 credit to .5 credit and Economics with Financial Literacy was added for .5 credit. The required courses are as follows: Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 10 English language arts, including reading, composition and writing 4 credits Mathematics (see (d) below) 4 credits Science 3 credits Physical Education/Any Mil Sci Course 2 credits World History/World Geography 1 credit American History 1 credit American Government .5 credit Economics with Financial Literacy .5 credit Art/Humanities or CTE 1 credit Computer Literacy .5 credit Health Education/ Mil Sci (5th semester course) .5 credit TOTAL 18 credits

b. Of the twenty-four (24) credits outlined in 5a(i), a student must earn not less than two (2) credits in any of the following or a combination of the following:

i. Advanced Placement courses;

ii. International Baccalaureate courses;

iii. Dual credit courses or courses completed through dual enrollment;

iv. Career and technical education courses (including JROTC);

v. Work-based learning courses;

vi. A world language course; or

vii. Demonstrate proficiency in not less than two (2) languages by: 1) In a language, other than English, students must demonstrate Intermediate Mid/High proficiency in all four Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 11 (4) domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. If there is a particular language that does not have an assessment that measures all four domains, students must demonstrate Intermediate High in the domains that are available; and 2) For proficiency in English, a student must complete four (4) years (four (4) credits) of English language arts with at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale. The GPA will be calculated after the 7th semester grade posts.

a. Receive one or both of the following endorsements:

i. College Ready Endorsement: 1) Score of eighteen (18) on the ACT English assessment; and 2) Score of twenty-two (22) on the ACT Math assessment.

ii. Career Ready Endorsement: 1) Score of fifty (50) or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB); 2) Score of Silver or higher on the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC); 3) Be a completer of a CTE program of study and earn the Nevada Skills Certificate; or 4) Obtain an industry recognized credential of the Office of Workforce Innovation, Nevada Governor's Office (OWINN) list.



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- b. Mathematics. In order to advance to the next mathematics course a student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1 either semester, they must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry, they must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2, they must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), students can be enrolled in Pre-College Math. Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 12
- i. To graduate, students would need at a minimum: 1) Algebra 1 both Semester 1 and Semester 2; 2) Geometry 1 and 2; and 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math: a) If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and Pre College-Math and failed, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may grant an exception if appropriate; b) If a student transfers in to the District during his/her senior year and has not had the opportunity to take the suggested courses, the Senior Director of Student Accounting may make an exception; and c) The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn a CCR Diploma. 4) The total of four (4) math credits must be earned to earn a CCR Diploma.
- c. Courses providing any of the required credits listed above must meet the District's or NVACS standards approved for that area of study.
- d. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. The exact assessment is listed in the annual CCR assessment informational pamphlet provided by the Nevada Department of Education. The CCR Diploma begins with the 2019 Cohort.
6. The Adult Standard High School Graduation Diploma (Adult Diploma) is only offered to students who are enrolled in Rise Academy for Adult Achievement (Rise Academy). Students must be 17 years of age but have completed four years of high school or at least 18 years or age no matter how much high school or if any high school was attended to enroll in Rise Academy.
- a. In order for a student to complete high school successfully and be awarded an Adult Diploma from Rise Academy, the student must accumulate a total of twenty and one-half (20 ½) credits. Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 13
- b. The twenty and one-half (20 ½) credits, sixteen (16) credits are required credits and seven and one-half (7½) are elective credits. The required courses are as follows: English language arts, including reading, composition and writing 4 credits Mathematics (see (d) below) 3 credits Science 2 credits American History 1 credit American Government 1 credit Art/Humanities or Career and Technical Education (CTE) 1 credit Computer Literacy .5 credit Health Education/Mil Sci (5th semester course) .5 credit TOTAL 13 Credits
- c. Mathematics. In order for a student to advance to the next mathematics course a





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student must pass the pre-requisite course or be concurrently enrolled in an equivalent course. Algebra 2 is the only exception (i.e., if a student fails Algebra 1, either semester, he/she must re-take Algebra 1 or be concurrently enrolled in Algebra 1 and Geometry. If a student fails Geometry, he/she must re-take Geometry or be concurrently enrolled in Geometry and Algebra 2. If a student fails Algebra 2, he/she must re-take Algebra 2 and cannot be concurrently enrolled in another math course). In cases where graduation is at risk (after failing Algebra 2), a student can be enrolled in Pre-College Math. i. To graduate, a student would need at a minimum: 1) Algebra 1 - both Semester 1 and Semester 2; 2) Geometry 1 and 2; and 3) Any combination of Algebra 2, or Pre-College Math: a) If a student has tried both Algebra 2 and PreCollege Math and failed, the Senior Director of Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 14 Student Accounting may consider an exception; b) If a student transfers to the District during the student's senior year and the student has not taken any or all of the courses: Algebra 1, Geometry, and/or Algebra 2, schools may apply to the Senior Director of Student Accounting for consideration of an exception from the math pathway but not three (3) credits of math for graduation; and c) The granting of an exception only extends to the suggested courses. The requirement of three (3) mathematics credits cannot be waived to earn an Adult Diploma.

d. Courses providing any of the required credits listed in this regulation must meet the District or State of Nevada Academic Content Standards (NVACS) approved for that area of study.

e. In addition to the twenty and one-half (20 ½) credits earned, students must participate in and/or pass required assessments specified by Nevada state law (Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 390).

7. Cohort Grad Year 2016 and after must participate in the College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment to graduate. The CCR assessment is selected and approved by the Nevada State Board of Education. The exact assessment is listed in the annual CCR assessment informational pamphlet provided by the Nevada Department of Education. Formula for Calculating the Weighted GPA

a. Effective in the 2007-2008 school year, the weighted and unweighted GPA will be noted on the District's transcript. Class rank will be determined by the current unweighted or weighted system of the school as indicated in the school's course catalog and noted on the transcript accordingly.

b. Beginning in the school year 2010-2011, the class rank will be determined by the weighted GPA and noted on the transcript at all schools.

c. Effective July 2007, courses designated as Honors will receive a .025 weighted value and courses designated as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate will receive a .050 weighted value. Dual credit courses are weighted as listed in the Approved List of Dual Credit Courses. Administrative Regulation 5127 High School Graduation Diploma Requirements Page 15

d. Each school may have its own policy regarding weighting grades/classes to determine certain recognition programs; however, the "value added" formula will be used to determine eligibility for Millennium Scholarship, Advanced Diploma, and the Honors Diploma.



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### **8. Standard, Honors, Advanced, or Adjusted Diploma Requirements for Students with Disabilities**

a. Students with disabilities who fulfill the following requirements may graduate from high school with a Standard, Honors, Advanced, or an Adjusted Diploma.

i. Standard Diploma, Honors Diploma, or Advanced Diploma - Students shall complete all of the requirements for the Standard (see paragraph 1 above), Honors (see paragraph 2 above), or Advanced (see paragraph 3 above) Diplomas. The educational needs of these students may require specially designed instruction, environment or accommodations in the format and administration of classroom, District, and State assessments. Accommodations that are appropriate shall be outlined in the student's IEP, which is developed in accordance with the State's Standards for Administration of Special Education Program, or the student's Section 504 plan; and

ii. Adjusted Diploma - Students shall complete all of the graduation requirements outlined in their IEP. The requirements will be different from those for a Standard Diploma since the educational needs of these students require specially designed graduation requirements in addition to specially designed instruction and environment. The standards of proficiency required for an adjusted diploma and the methods of measuring that proficiency shall be outlined in the student's IEP, which is developed in accordance with the State's Standards for Administration of Special Education Programs.

#### **Incoming Students above 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

1. If a student enters the high school during the semester and credit has not already been awarded by the previous institution, the student should be placed in courses at the new high school which best match those the student was taking. If no match can be made, the student should be enrolled in an appropriate class such as: study hall, off campus (if minimum academic load requirement is satisfied), correspondence, District Online Courses, or other alternative program. If a course match is made, the title of the District course will supersede the course title from the previous high school.
2. Administrators and the Registrar will call the school from which a student has transferred in order to clarify questions regarding the courses that the student has taken. If a transcript contains a course which cannot be easily equated to a course in the District Master Course File, the high school administrator and/or their designee should request a written course description or syllabus from the sending institution. Based on that description, the closest match to a course in the District Master Course File should be made. After the course number has been entered into the student's Course History File, the title of the course should be changed to reflect the actual title assigned by the sending school. It is imperative that each semester of a student's high school record shows the official name of the institution and the abbreviation of the state in which the institution is located, awarding credit for Administrative Procedure 5515 Transcript Evaluation Page 2 that semester all questions shall be referred to Student Accounting.





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3. Nevada Statutes (NRS 388.150) and Administrative Code Regulations (389.676) specifically prohibit credit for courses in religion in public schools. Students from parochial schools who transfer to a public school may not receive credit, even elective credit, for religion courses. The transcript should show the religion course with "NM" (No Mark). Additionally, no dual credit may be awarded for religion courses. If the courses are believed to be humanities courses and not religion courses. The school administrator or their designee can request a written course description from the sending institution. Student Accounting and Curriculum and Instruction will determine if credit can be awarded for the Administrative Procedure 5515 Transcript Evaluation Page 3 course.
4. A course called "Civics", "We the People", or "Government" will be accepted for government credit regardless of the grade level taken at an out of district school. In the District, Government is taken in the senior year. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Schools should request a course description for "Civics" to determine if the course meets the standards for American Government credit or if it would be considered an elective.
5. If SNACS enrolls a student from a foreign land, the WCSD's Student Accounting will be contacted to evaluate all foreign transcripts. Schools must submit an electronic copy of the official transcript along with the WCSD Out of Country Transcript Evaluation Request. Once the transcript is evaluated and returned, the school registrar will post the credits. It is imperative that each semester of a student's high school record shows Out of Country as the institution name and the abbreviation of Country or Territory in which the school is located, awarding credit for that semester. All questions shall be referred to Student Accounting.
6. International Exchange students must have received approval from WCSD's Student Accounting and SNACS Board of Governance. Student Accounting will evaluate the student's foreign transcript. The parent/student/host family must submit a copy of all school records and an official document from all academic institutions (equivalent to grade seven through the most recent school grade) with an English translation provided by the educational institution, including courses studied, hours attended (daily/weekly), grades received, and an explanation of the grading system. The transcript will be evaluated by Student Accounting with regard to courses taken and grades and credit earned. A maximum of seven (7) credits may be awarded per school year. The parent/student/host family will present the official evaluation to the zoned high school. If the parent/student/host family wishes to challenge the specificity of the course title interpretation made by Student Accounting personnel, it is the parent/student/host family's responsibility to provide to the high school student's Assistant Principal appropriate documentation, in English, to support the challenge. The student's Assistant Principal may re-evaluate only for purposes of selecting a course title which more closely



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represents the course(s) taken. Challenges regarding the grades and credit earned must be made to the Senior Director, Student Accounting.

7. Ninth grade students entering high school from a home school program must provide a notarized affidavit certifying proficiency in Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. Students may be also assessed in these subject areas prior to enrollment for class placement.
8. Students entering HS with HS Credit Earned in MS: a. No credit will be placed on a high school transcript that is earned in middle school if the high school credit was earned after the close of the 2021-2022 school year for all credits except World Language. World Language credits earned in middle school will not be posted to the high school transcript unless earned before the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

### **Course Completions/Schedule**

Students are expected to complete all (6) courses, earning 0.5 credits (1/2) per course, per semester. If any student has not completed the necessary requirements for course success (passing with a “D” or above, the student will be marked with an Incomplete grade “INC”). Students with an INC will have an opportunity to complete that course, through SNACS or BYU, **no later than 6 weeks into the next semester**. Beyond 6 weeks students will be marked with a failure grade for that INC course.

Students will receive 6 courses, at a minimum, per semester. It is vital that families work with SNACS Educational Team Members to ensure student success by regularly checking progress through Infinite Campus and BYU.

### **Individualized Educational Programs (IEP)**

SNACS provides services to children who have IEPs or 504 plans as determined under special education law. These children have been through the evaluation process, and as indicated above, have been determined “eligible” to receive services. The team (teachers, parents, administrator, and possible others) meets to develop a contract, specifying the accommodations, goals, and benchmarks for the academic year. Accommodations and



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modifications help the children to overcome their disability and reach their potential. Parents receive the *Special Education Rights of Parents and Children* packet during the IEP meeting and may request a copy.

SNACS does not have access to certain accommodations and is considered a school within Washoe County School District for the sole purpose of being a provider of special education services. Washoe County School District offers a full spectrum of services, from minimal special education services to self-contained classroom. SNACS is within this spectrum of services and works collaboratively for proper placement of students.

### **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

Section 504 is a civil rights law which protects the rights of students with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education. (FAPE). A student is eligible under Section 504 if he or she has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (e.g. learning, breathing, hearing, seeing, etc.) and is in between the ages of 3-21.

#### ***Rights under Section 504***

- An education free of discrimination, harassment or retaliation based on disability.
- Ability to file a complaint if discrimination, harassment or retaliation takes place.
- Ability to take part and receive benefit from public education programs without discrimination.
- Inspect and receive educational records.
- Receive written notice for identification, evaluation, re-evaluation and placement.
- Have evaluations, educational and placement decisions based upon a variety of information sources and by persons who have knowledge of the student and disability in question, the evaluation data and placement options.
- Request an administrative review and have the right to an impartial hearing.

#### **Success Plans/Contracts**

Administration and teachers work with parents in developing personalized contracts for students displaying academic or behavioral challenges. All parties participate in the development of the contract, which specifies behaviors, consequences, and duration of the intervention. Feedback is usually provided on a set time frame (e.g. star chart or home note), so the children know immediately the consequences of their actions. This includes both positive and re-directive action steps.



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### **Family Volunteers**

SNACS promotes a collaborative learning environment where parents are welcomed to volunteer in and out of the classroom in a meaningful way. SNACS relies heavily on volunteers and requests that each family volunteer 10 hours per month. Volunteers play an important role and contribute valuable time towards helping our small school community. We are grateful to our volunteers and want to ensure volunteerism is a pleasurable experience for everyone. There are several basic guidelines and procedures to help keep our volunteer program effective and efficient.

In order to protect the safety of the students, all persons who wish to volunteer in the classroom and/or around the students must complete a Volunteer Application (at least yearly) for a background check and submit a set of fingerprints. Those persons who hold other agency clearances related to fingerprints must still submit a set of fingerprints as SNACS is solely responsible for our volunteer fingerprints and may not accept other agency reports in lieu of current fingerprints. SNACS reserves the right to submit the fingerprints to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of obtaining a background check. Unless a background check is returned with any arrest/conviction information that contradicts the documentation provided in the Volunteer Application, volunteers may be allowed to volunteer in the classroom as long as they are not a distraction to the class or school environment.

All volunteers must be under the direct supervision of a staff member. They may not be alone with students or unsupervised on school grounds. All volunteers are permitted at the discretion of the school administrators. At any time, school administrators have the right to refuse volunteerism if they deem it is in the best interest of the school. Volunteers are expected to behave in such a way that is conducive to the learning environment and not impeding the primary focus of schooling. Volunteering should be conducted with a positive attitude keeping the spirit of the school as a guiding principle. Those who volunteer with a positive attitude and refrain from complaining help the school climate flourish. Those who volunteer with a focus on the negative can hurt the school climate. The latter will not be tolerated. A volunteer should refrain from interference with classroom or school related issues that are the responsibility of school personnel. All school rules must be followed, including the use of appropriate language, dress, and overall behavior.

According to federal law, the Family Educational Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA), classroom volunteers are not permitted to discuss any student or student related information they witness as a result of their being in the classroom or on school grounds as a volunteer. Any



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volunteer violating FERPA may be asked to volunteer in situations where they are not working directly with or around children.

SNACS has a list available for suggested ways to fulfill family volunteer requirements. However, SNACS encourages each family to use its unique talents and interests in volunteering at school. The school will benefit the most from such meaningful volunteering, and the families will enjoy volunteering more.

From time to time SNACS will send to each family, a detail of its volunteer hours. Therefore, it is absolutely vital that each family keep accurate records of their volunteer time or donations. A volunteer log via computer is available in the front office for recording hours or donations. Please remember that if you are making material donations, the receipt needs to be turned in to the front office.

### **Overnight Chaperones**

It may be difficult to know in advance, but if you wish to volunteer as an Overnight Chaperone on a field trip, you **must** be fingerprinted in advance of the field trip date. Fingerprinting must be authorized by the Education or Executive Director. It's better to be prepared, so if you might volunteer as an Overnight Chaperone, please plan to be fingerprinted. Having fingerprinting done in the summertime is a great idea. **If you are not fingerprinted six (6) weeks in advance, you will not be allowed to participate as an Overnight Chaperone. Fingerprinting is good for twelve (12) months**

To be fingerprinted for Overnight Chaperoning, you must take the authorized (signed by authorized administrator) or from Volunteer Services. School Volunteer Application with the attached picture ID to the Fingerprint ID and Background Office), Fingerprinting personnel will give you a confirmation notice that you must return to your school staff person to show you have completed your fingerprinting requirement. There is a fee for fingerprinting that is expected to be paid for by the volunteer. If in the event this may be a financial burden to the volunteer, please seek the assistance of the Education Director.

### **Visitor Sign In**

All visitors, volunteers and board members must sign in at the front office on the volunteer sign-in sheet & receive a badge. Classrooms will be called to announce a visitor before the visitor will be allowed beyond the front desk. This is a fire code requirement and safety protocol. This is not optional. All volunteers must be under the direct supervision of an SNACS staff member and may not be alone with students at any time. The only considered exception to this if SNACS is provided with a current copy of a valid Nevada teaching license or a WCSS Child Care work card.



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### **Emergency Notification/Blackboard Connect-Ed Update**

SNACS's telephone messaging system, Connect-Ed, has now been in use for multiple years. If you are a returning family, you should have received messages from your school on a variety of important topics. To enhance the system and be able to reach you during the school day when an emergency arises, we need an emergency contact number that we can call in addition to your home number. This number must be one that we can reach without fail. It may be a cell number or regular number; it can be local or long-distance. It CANNOT include an extension. The system can only call direct numbers. If you want it to be your daytime work number and you work for a large company, please DO NOT give us a switchboard or operator number of your employer. We need a number that will reach you or a trusted friend directly. Thanks for helping us reach you in emergency situations with information that you will need to know. Thank you for your assistance in adding this emergency contact information to your student's records. In the addition of current telephone numbers, we also send message through text messaging and email. Again, we ask for current, up-to-date, contact numbers from all families.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

*Dances, Movie Nights, Social Events, etc.*

Dances and social events sponsored by SNACS shall be under the direction of the sponsors at all times. The sponsors and the school administrator shall be responsible to adequately staff chaperones, volunteers, or otherwise. Students are expected to adhere to all school policies and to act in accordance with all school guidelines during these events.

All students at SNACS are expected to perform at their highest academic potential. Students are expected to achieve A's & B's or O's and S+'s in order to participate in any social events. Lower grades on two consecutive progress reports may result in academic probation and a loss of these privileges, at the discretion of the teacher, administrators, and parent.

### **Nutrition Services**

SNACS participates in the hot breakfast and lunch program. We request that each family complete the Application for Free/Reduced Meals, as the information contained in the application is also used for grant writing. Meals are free for the 2021-2022 school year.

SNACS Educators commit to helping all children eat a healthy breakfast every day. Breakfast is optional and served in the classrooms at 8:00 a.m. These are working breakfasts where children are still completing academic work while eating breakfast. Lunch is served between





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11:15s a.m. – 1:00 p.m., depending on the age grade-level of the student. Meals may be purchased singly or by the week, two weeks, month, etc. Contact your child's teacher for a specific lunch time.

In following the Washoe County Nutrition Policy, SNACS follows a nutrition policy that must be adhered to. We encourage parents to provide healthy meals for their child. Further, if snacks are to be provided to the classroom roster for any reason, we ask that the food items be store purchased and healthy in nature. Such items include fruit, vegetables, granola bars, yogurt, etc.

### **Safety Policy**

SNACS conducts various safety drills including: fire, earthquake, windstorm, chemical spills, and intruders. Students and staff participate in such drills in order to ensure an orderly and safe environment in the event of a crisis or emergency situation. Should a long-term evacuation of SNACS be necessary, parents should be prepared to sign their children out at the park located north of Lear Blvd. on Stead Blvd. The students will be grouped by homeroom class. A copy of the complete safety procedure manual can be found in the front office.

### **Closed Campus**

SNACS is a closed campus. Students are not permitted to leave the premises unattended during regular school hours for any reason. Parents/legal guardians wishing to have students leave the premises during school hours must sign them out of school in the main office.

### **Court/Custody Issues**

SNACS honors all court orders on file in the main office. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make sure that court orders regarding students are provided to the school. SNACS cannot honor requests regarding custody issues without a court order.

### **Confidentiality**

SNACS is a small community environment and confidentiality becomes crucial to the continuing success of our school. Under the Family Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA), all SNACS staff members will maintain confidentiality for each family. Under no circumstances, without written consent of the parents, may SNACS staff engage in conversation relating to a specific student or discipline-related incidents involving SNACS students to other staff members not directly related to the incident, student or parents. This would be in direct violation of FERPA.





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### **Snow Days/School Closures**

SNACS recognizes that it sometimes becomes unsafe to drive in the snow. Should Washoe County School District determine that a delayed start or a snow day is necessary; SNACS will also have a delayed start or snow day. When there is a 1-hour delay, students may begin arriving at 8:45am (Stead) and 9:00am (Fox). Staff members are not present to assist or monitor students prior to 8:45am. When there is a two-hour delay, students may begin arriving at 9:45am (Stead) and 10:00am (Fox). Visit the WCSD Website for additional information regarding SNOW Days and Delayed starts. SNACS may determine that additional delayed starts or snow days are necessary. Contingency days at the end of the school year will be used to make up any time used for snow days. Every effort will be made to contact local news channels 2, 4, and 8 during such delays or closures, in addition to sending all-calls, emails, text messages, and ClassDojo messages.

### **Cellular Telephones / Technology Devices**

Recognizing that emergencies occur and that technology enables timely communication during these times, students at SNACS are permitted to carry a cellular telephone or technology device, with the approval of the teacher or administrator. Students are expected to have all cellular telephones / technology device turned off during instructional ALL times (8:00am to 3:00pm). If in the event that a parent must contact their child, they should begin by contacting the front office. We do encourage students to leave all electronic devices at home. However, the following regulations must be adhered to:

- SNACS accepts no responsibility regarding lost, stolen, or damaged cellular telephones or pagers;
- Cellular telephones / technology devices shall be **turned off** during all school regular hours, unless there is a true emergency situation;
- An emergency situation is defined as one where the school and/or the student body is in danger, i.e., extreme weather conditions, prolonged utility disruptions, intruder, or any other event that, at the Administrator's or his/her appointee's discretion, is deemed an emergency;
- During an emergency situation, cellular telephones may be used by students upon permission from the teacher or other staff person in charge;
- Urgent communication to students should be through the school's main office as student's cellular telephones and pagers will remain off during school hours, unless there is an emergency situation.

Cellular telephones / technology devices will be confiscated from students who do not follow the regulation. Cellular telephones / technology devices that are confiscated have the following consequences:



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1. First Offense: Confiscated and the student can pickup at the end of the day. Parent may be notified.
2. Second Offense: Confiscated and the parent will be contacted to pick up the device
3. Third Offense: Confiscated and Administration will contact the parent

### **Arrival to School**

As a matter of safety and accountability, all students are required to report directly to the playground in the morning unless weather prohibits this, in which case, students will be directed to an alternate area. Between 7:45 - 8:00 a.m. (Stead) and 8:00am - 8:15am (Fox), students are to be dropped off at the south end of the playground where they will go directly to the playground. Duty teachers will be on the playground by 7:45 a.m. / 8:00am, each morning. All scheduled teachers will be on the playground by 7:45 a.m / 8:00am. Students are not allowed to enter the buildings without the direct supervision of a teacher or other staff member. Students needing care prior to 7:45am / 8:00am may contact the office for the before school program and rates therein.

### **Dismissal Procedure**

#### **Students Picked Up**

Full Day dismissal begins at 2:45pm (Stead) and 3:00pm (Fox). All other students being picked will be called to the front office/loading zone as they are dismissed. Students are supervised by duty teachers until 3:00pm / 3:15pm. On scheduled Early Release days, dismissal begins at 11:00am (Stead) and 11:15am (Fox).

SNACS is responsible for its students for up to 30 minutes before & after school, or until they are in the custody of a parent/guardian, or other authorized person. It is imperative that each student is picked up by a person authorized to pick them up. If children are not picked up, they will be sent to the after-school program and they will incur a fee for this service. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to keep the form, *How Will Your Child Get Home From School and Who has Permission to Pick Your Child Up From School?* updated. Phone calls will not be accepted to change the form.

#### **Walkers/Bike Riders**

At 2:45pm (Stead) and 3:00pm (Fox), all walkers will be dismissed. Those students authorized by their parent/guardian to walk or ride their bike home must leave the premises immediately upon dismissal. Parents are advised to make sure that their child(ren) are home within a certain time period after school to assure their safety.



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### General Pick Up Information

All students are prohibited from coming into the main building for phone usage, getting a drink of water, or going to the bathroom after school during dismissal. Students must use their final period classroom to make telephone calls.

Teachers will send students to the office to allow emergency phone usage by students during the school day. Students need to make social arrangements at home, not during school hours. Students must have a note from their parent/guardian if they are to be dismissed to go to a friend's home.

### Late Pick Up

Children who have not been picked up by 3:00 p.m. will be escorted to the after-school program. Parents will be responsible to pay for the after-school program if they arrive after 3:00pm. In the event that a parent is going to be late to pick their child(ren) up from school, the school must be informed. If the school does not receive notification, every effort will be made to contact a parent or emergency contact. If no contact can be made by 3:45pm, the proper law enforcement agency will be notified.

### Discipline Policy

Parents, teachers and students actively participated in the development of the school-wide discipline policy and procedures, which have been reported by the Washoe County School District as "progressive." One of the most important lessons for any student to learn is to respect authority, respect the rights of others and take care of his/her own and other's property. Additionally, no student will be allowed to disrupt the education of other students. Although it is necessary to have school and classroom rules, our emphasis will not be on the do's and don'ts, but on guiding the student to a problem-solving approach to apply in any given situation. In order to accomplish this, we must set discipline standards that are enforced fairly and consistently.

The classroom teacher is responsible for consulting with the Chief Executive and Education Directors for intervention strategies to implement on an individual basis. It is the intention of SNACS to utilize positive reinforcement and other behavioral interventions to teach students appropriate social skill and academic behaviors. It is of the utmost importance that the teachers, administrators and parents work together as a team in discipline matters. Without order, safety and a sense of security and civility, schools cannot work and learning will not occur.



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However, school discipline is not about rules, regulations, regimentation, policies or punishment. Healthy and productive student behavior is a by-product of the beliefs and values of the organization. The roots of positive discipline lie in the way adults and students think about themselves and others and the way they treat each other every day. It is the culture that drives the discipline. SNACS is fully committed to implementing the positive discipline policy.

### **School Rules**

- 1) Keep self to self
- 2) Follow instructions
- 3) Show respect for others and property
- 4) Be Safe

### **School Guidelines**

#### **Hallway Guidelines:**

- Walk at all times.
- Always speak in an inside voice so other students will not be disturbed.
- Stay on the right side.
- Stay in line when you are with your class.
- \* Always have permission to go to the bathroom or water fountain.

#### **Lunch Guidelines**

- Be kind.
- Talk with an inside voice.
- Stay in your seat.
- Teacher attention for any assistance.
- Clean up as a community.

#### **Playground Guidelines**

- Be kind.
- Play only in designated areas.
- Share and return equipment.
- Follow instructions.
- Only enter the building with adult permission.
- Shoes must be worn.
- Rocks, snow and sand remain on the ground.



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- Play fighting is not permitted, anywhere on school grounds.

### General Guidelines:

- **Courtesy and Respect:** Children and adults are expected to behave respectfully toward others in their words and actions.
- **Noise:** Generally the noise level in the classrooms and halls should be maintained at a level of respect for others in the building. Planned activities, which require livelier student interaction should be conducted with the same respect.
- **Teacher Attention / "TA":** In most classroom situations, students are expected to raise their hands for teacher attention of any kind. Students will be recognized by the teacher in order to speak or leave their seats unless other classroom procedures or methods have been established for a given activity.
- **Calm Person / TA:** In the classroom situation, students will utilize the calm person technique to encourage timely and orderly transitions from subject to subject and activity to activity. This will maximize instructional time.
- **Procedures:** Individual teachers must establish procedures in the classroom regarding the use of the bathroom, turning in papers, lining up to leave the classroom, etc.

### Educare

SNACS before and after school program, Educare, is offered by the Achievers program and is a separate program from the regular school program. State law requires public schools to be accountable for students enrolled in their school  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour before and  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour after the school day, upon school premises. Consequences given during Educare will apply to Educare only. For example, if a student is suspended in Educare, they will be suspended from the Educare program, not the classroom. Only if the student's behavior poses a threat to the classroom environment, administration will meet and determine appropriate action. Consultation regarding such behavior will occur between the Executive and Education Director and the Educare Coordinator prior to enforcing such a consequence.

### Dress Code

The following is the dress code for normal school days. Special dress days may allow certain clothing pertaining to such a designated day. However, any such days require that student attired does not interfere with the daily operation of the school or the classroom. Any disruptions therein are at the mutual discretion between the teacher and administrator and will not be tolerated.



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### Condition and Wear of Clothing

- Nothing that distracts from the learning environment or poses a safety hazard
- No holes, rips, or tears that reveal the body
- No tight-fitting or revealing clothing
- No hooded sweatshirts, with hoods worn over heads, is permitted inside the building- no exceptions

### Safety

- No clothing that can pose a potential health or safety problem
- No gloves inside the building; no single glove at any time
- No jewelry or chains that can cause injury
- No hanging chains
- No spiked or studded accessories

### Tops/Skirts/Dresses

- Tops must cover the upper and middle torso at all times
- Skirts must cover the lower torso with no skin showing between top and skirt
- Skirts and dresses must be at least mid-thigh in length; no mini-skirts
- No exposed undergarments
- No halter, tank or tube tops, no transparent, half, or muscle shirts
- No exposed shoulders
- No low cut necklines, exposed cleavage, or spaghetti straps
- No pajamas, lounge wear, or bath robes

### Pants/Shorts

- Must cover lower torso with no skin showing between top and pants/shorts
- No exposed undergarments
- No sagging pants or shorts
- No single rolled up pant leg
- No exposed buttocks
- Belt buckle monograms must be appropriate
- No hanging or extended belt lengths
- No unfastened overalls
- No cut-offs
- Shorts must be hemmed and at least mid-thigh in length
- No mini-shorts; no spandex shorts

### Head Coverings

- No head coverings or sunglasses worn in the building during school hours (exceptions are made for religious or medical reasons)



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- No bandanas, do-rags, hairnets, surgical/shower caps, or hair picks at any time on campus or at any school-sponsored event

### Footwear

- Proper footwear at all times
- No house slippers
- No flip flops

### Language/Illustrations on Clothing

- No obscene, vulgar, profane, or derogatory language or illustrations on clothing
- No sexual overtones, or anything that promotes alcohol, drugs, tobacco, gang membership, or violence.
- Nothing that may be deemed a safety issue.

### Gang Attire

All items that have been identified as gang-related by local law enforcement agencies are prohibited. These may include but are not limited to:

- No dangling belts
- No chains
- No unfastened overalls
- No sagging pants/shorts
- No single rolled up pant leg
- No hairnets, bandanas, or do-rags
- No blue and/or red shoelaces on footwear at any time; other colors may be deemed inappropriate as necessary to protect student safety on campus
- No altered insignias or graffiti
- No jewelry or belt buckles symbolizing any gangs
- No graffiti in or on personal belongings symbolizing any identified gang.

### Consequences for Violation of Dress Code

1<sup>st</sup> Violation: Student may call home to have appropriate clothing brought to change into. If no one is available to bring appropriate clothing, student will be provided with appropriate clothing to wear for the remainder of the day.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Student will be provided with appropriate clothing to wear for the day. The parent/guardian will be called to inform them of the second offense.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: The parent/guardian will be required to bring appropriate clothing to school. The student will go to Temporary Alternative Placement (TAP) until appropriate clothing is brought. Detention may be assigned.





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4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Student will be suspended out of school and a conference must be held with the parent/guardian before the student may return.

*\*Continued offenses may lead to Saturday School and eventually expulsion.*

### **Water Bottles, Thermoses, Etc.**

Students are permitted to bring water bottles or other appropriate containers filled with water to school. Other beverages are not permitted in the classrooms. Soda is not appropriate.

### **Home to School Items**

Students are not permitted to bring toys, electronic devices or pets without the permission of their classroom/homeroom teacher. SNACS is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Teachers will confiscate such items if seen in the classroom and the item will be returned to the parent. Should a student repeat this offense, the teacher may keep an item to the end of a given quarter or to the end of the school year.

### **Internet Usage**

Students are permitted to use the Internet, upon return of the Parent Permission to use SNACS Internet Access. Internet usage is restricted to research and school-related websites. Teachers monitor Internet usage. Any misuse or abuse of the Internet may result in detention, in school suspension or suspension. In addition, a student may be prohibited from further use of the Internet, which may adversely affect their grade.

### **Medication During the School Day**

The following provisions apply to both prescription and over-the-counter medication:

- Parents should avoid medicating students during the school day.
- When a student is deemed as needing medication, parents must administer any medication to the child directly on school grounds.
- School personnel are not permitted to administer medication.
- Students are not permitted to have medication on their person with the exception of registered prescription inhalers for those students with asthma.
- In such cases, the inhaler medication must be contained in a current pharmacy container labeled with the student's name, physician's name, date, medication, correct dosage, and time to use the inhaler.
- Any other medication issues must be brought to the attention of the certified clinical aide and will be addressed accordingly.

*Students who do not abide by this policy could be found as possessing a controlled substance.*



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### **Law Enforcement Agency Compliance**

SNACS is obliged to work closely with law enforcement agencies in the control of certain student behavior. These agencies will be called upon to assist in handling situations including but not limited to theft, physical danger or dangerous search and seizure. State law charges every teacher and Administrator with maintaining order and discipline among students. Therefore, rules, regulations and procedures are developed to establish and to maintain an orderly learning environment in the school. These rules, regulations, sanctions and due process procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties in all aspects of their experience, including participation in extracurricular activities, inter-school athletic competition and school transportation services. The Executive Director has the overall responsibility for the discipline and welfare of all students. Imposition of serious disciplinary action on any student, including but not limited to suspension from school, suspension from inter-scholastic activities, transfer and expulsion are governed by the provisions of WCSD 5144.15: DISCIPLINARY REPORTING PROCEDUES and WCSD 5144.16: DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES. These regulations are available in the office and will be made available upon request.

### **Definitions of Acts Specifically Prohibited**

The commission of, or participation in, or unlawful attempt of any of the following activities or acts on the SNACS campus are prohibited and will constitute cause for disciplinary action. In addition, students at school-sponsored, off campus events and those using district-sponsored transportation shall be governed by school district rules and regulations and are subject to the authority of school district officials. An incident, which constitutes the commission of a criminal act, shall be reported at once to the proper law enforcement agency. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) shall also be notified, if possible. SNACS will take disciplinary action, whether or not criminal charges result. SNACS faculty work closely with the WCSD with regard to any discipline issues involving prohibited acts or those with an ongoing nature. The following acts are specifically prohibited:

1. ALCOHOL: The possession, sales or furnishing of alcoholic beverages.
2. ARSON: The intentional setting of a fire.
3. ASSAULT: Physical or verbal threats with the intent to carry through with same.
4. BATTERY: Any not-consented-to touch or application of force to another person.
5. BOMB THREAT/FALSE: Willfully conveying by mail, written notes, telephone, telegraph, radio, or any other means of communication, any threat, knowing it to be false.
6. BURGLARY: Illegal entry with the intent or with the act of stealing property.



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7. **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** Willfully and maliciously destroying or injuring real or personal property of another.
8. **DISTURBING THE PEACE:** Maliciously and willfully disturbing the peace of any person in the school, i.e., harassment.
9. **EXPLOSIVE DEVICES:** The possession of explosive or incendiary devices.
10. **FALSE FIRE ALARMS:** False reporting of or transmission of fire alarm signal, knowing same to be false.
11. **FIREWORKS:** The possession, sales, distribution, use or discharge of fireworks.
12. **INDECENT EXPOSURE:** Exposure of body parts that should be covered pursuant to the dress code.
13. **LARCENY:** Taking of another's property without permission.
14. **LIBEL:** A written defamation of another person's character.
15. **MARIJUANA:** The possession, sales or distribution of marijuana.
16. **NARCOTICS:** The possession, sales or distribution of a controlled substance.
17. **DRUG PARAPHERNALIA:** The possession, sales or distribution of materials whose purpose it is to ingest or make narcotics.
18. **PROFANITY:** Use of indecent language.
19. **RESISTING/INTERFERING WITH THE DUTIES OF A POLICE OFFICER:** Willfully resisting, delaying or obstructing a police officer in the performance of official duties.
20. **ROBBERY:** The unlawful taking of another's property with the use of force, violence or fear of injury to the owner of the property or another person present during the commission of the act.
21. **RIOT:** A noisy, violent public disorder caused by a group or crowd of people.
22. **SLANDER:** A spoken defamation of another person's character.
23. **STOLEN PROPERTY:** Receiving or possessing property of another knowing, or under such circumstances as would cause a reasonable person to know, that the property is stolen.
24. **TAMPERING WITH MOTOR VEHICLES:** Willfully breaking, injuring, tampering, removing parts, defacing, or climbing into or upon a vehicle with the intent to cause damage, manipulating any levers while vehicle is at rest or unattended or setting resting vehicle in motion without the consent of the owner.
25. **THROWING SUBSTANCE AT VEHICLE:** Throwing any object or substance at any motor vehicle.
26. **TRESPASS:** To be on the property of another without permission of the owner and to stay upon same after warning. To be on school property or at school function while under suspension from school.
27. **WEAPONS:** It is unlawful for any student, staff member, parent volunteer or any other person to come on school property with any weapon. Weapons include, but are not limited to: knives, pocket knives, utility knives, blackjack, sling shot, billy club, sand club,



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sandbag, metal knuckles, explosive substance, dirk, dagger, pistol, revolver or other firearm or other dangerous weapon.

28. OTHER PROHIBITED ACTS: violation of other federal or state laws or local ordinances at school, at school-sponsored activities or on district-sponsored transportation is prohibited.

### **Antiviolence and Zero Tolerance**

At SNACS, we believe all children, staff and volunteers have the right to learn and work in a safe environment. Under no circumstances may a child be permitted to harm another child, staff member or volunteer. It is the responsibility of the student to utilize conflict resolution and problem solving skills. The student must seek help from an adult in any situation where violence may occur.

It is the responsibility of all adults to respond accordingly and to take action immediately. Staff members will follow antiviolence protocol. ALL volunteers are to seek the assistance of a SNACS staff member. We abide by self to self in all situations and adopt a zero-tolerance policy. There are no exceptions.

### **Drugs/Substance**

SNACS supports a no tolerance policy for drug use or distribution. Any student participating in such activity on school grounds or during school activities will receive consequences under NRS 392.466. Substances include cigarettes, alcohol, glue (if sniffed), spray paint (if sniffed), illegal drugs, over-the-counter drugs and prescription medication. Substances will also include anything that a student portrays to his/her peers as being a substance.

### **Gangs**

SNACS supports a no gang policy by using several approaches that address the root of gang related behavior, such as teaching positive identity, social competencies, positive values and boundaries and expectations for others. The presence of gangs and gang activities can cause a substantial disruption of or material interferences with school and school activities. A "gang," as identified in this policy, is any group of two or more persons whose purpose includes the commission of illegal acts. SNACS further recognizes that any gang-related clothing, apparel, attire, jewelry, insignias, colors, paraphernalia and materials may vary from school to school and from year to year. SNACS shall consult with local law enforcement agencies and other agencies to ascertain the changes in gang appearances and activities and shall apprise the Executive Director or designee as needed, but not less than two times per year.



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### **Sexual Harassment**

SNACS is committed to providing a place of learning free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination, consisting of unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's school performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment at school or school sponsored events.

Prohibited activities include:

- Verbal or written sexually suggestive or obscene comments, jokes, or propositions.
- Unwanted physical contact, such as grabbing, touching, or pinching.
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or magazines.
- Continual expression of sexual or social interest after an indication that such interest is not desired.
- Conduct with sexual implications when such conduct interferes with a student's performance or creates an intimidating school environment.

*Any person found to have harassed another individual will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including out of school suspension and expulsion. Any person committing sexual harassment may also be held legally liable for his/her actions under applicable law.*

### **Secret Witness Program**

In order to promote school-wide safety, SNACS pledges to abide by a secret witness program. Students who know another student is doing something illegal or harmful to others could result in the being "guilty by association." All students are encouraged and requested to get help from an SNACS staff member. The identity of the reporting student will remain confidential. Parents may also participate in this program. If a student has told a parent information that could result in injury or legal action, we encourage parents to let the school know. Participation in this program will help keep SNACS safe learning environment.

### **Suspensions/Expulsions**

***NRS 392.466 Suspension or Expulsion of Pupil for Battery, etc.***

1. Any pupil must be suspended for at least one semester who:
  - Commits battery resulting in bodily injury of a school employee, or
  - Sells or distributes a controlled substance, or
  - Is found to be in possession of a dangerous weapon.



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2. Any pupil must be suspended for at least one year who:
  - Is found to be in possession of a firearm.
3. These occurrences can take place at any of the following locations:
  - On school grounds;
  - At a school sponsored activity; or
  - On a school bus.
4. For a second occurrence, a pupil must:
  - Be permanently expelled; and
  - Receive equivalent instruction per NRS 392.070.
5. The SNACS Board of Governance may allow an exception to the expulsion requirement.
6. A pupil deemed a habitual disciplinary problem (NRS 392.4655) must be:
  - Suspended or expelled for at least one semester, and
  - Receive equivalent instruction per NRS 392.070.

If a student is deemed a habitual disciplinary problem by the SNACS Board of Governance, they will be referred to WCSD for appropriate placement.

7. A pupil in grades 1-6, except one who possesses a dangerous weapon, may be suspended, as set forth in this section, or permanently expelled only upon SNACS board accord.

- No pupil may be suspended or expelled until he/she has been:
- Notified of the charges against him/her both verbally and in writing;
- Provided with an explanation of the evidence; and
- Given an opportunity for a hearing in front of the Board of Governance (for expulsions only).

A pupil may be removed from school immediately, upon explanation of reasons and pending procedures to both pupil and parent, if he meets the following criteria:

- Poses a continuing danger to persons or property;
- Is an ongoing disruption to the academic climate.
- Is selling or distributing any controlled substance or any substance that he/she is passing off as a controlled substance
- Is in possession of a weapon.
- 

### **Search and Seizure**

To provide an orderly and safe school environment where students are learning, the SNACS staff must control the behavior of students and prevent the introduction by students of harmful, damaging, unlawful or harmful items onto the school campus. The law, therefore, permits school authorities to search students, their personal possessions and their desks





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and lockers under appropriate circumstances. A decision to search a student, his/her possessions, or any school property or area assigned to him/her for his/her individual use shall be made in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Student's Rights and Responsibilities – Each student has a right of privacy of his/her person, his/her personal belongings and effects, but that right is limited by the needs of all students for a safe, calm and orderly school environment. Students shall not carry or conceal or bring onto school premises any material that is prohibited by law or published school rules, regulations or policies or any material that will detract from the maintenance of a calm, orderly and safe school environment.

2. An administrator, teacher, or other school employee designated by an administrator may search the person of any student, the personal effects in the student's possession, under any of the following circumstances:

- a. The search is made in connection with a lawful arrest.
- b. The search is made with the voluntary consent of the student.
- c. The search is conducted on the reasonable suspicion that the student is engaged in an activity which violates a law or published school district rule, regulation or policy or that the student is carrying, concealing or sequestering material, the possession of which is prohibited by law or published school rule, regulation or policy. If the search is made with the consent of the student, a staff member will witness the consent and the search. The administrator, teacher, or other designated school employee making the search shall be of the same sex as the student searched, unless the need for an immediate search requires a search by an administrator, teacher, or other employee of the opposite sex. In either case, another school employee should always witness the search. The search of a desk or locker assigned to a student may be done at any time pursuant to either of the following rules:
- d. The search is made to maintain discipline and to protect students from the introduction into the school of offensive or undesirable materials, or, suspicion that the student is engaged in an activity which violates a law or a published school rule, regulation or policy or that the student is using the school property for an illegal or prohibited purpose

3. Reasonable Suspicion: In those cases requiring a reasonable suspicion as the basis for the search, the school official or employee authorizing the search shall have a reasonable suspicion that prohibited or illegal items will be found. A reasonable suspicion is a subjective, good faith belief supported by objective facts which may include, but are not limited to, the student's age, history and record in the school, the reliability of the information giving rise to the suspicion and the seriousness and prevalence of the problem in the school.





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4. Limitations on Right of Privacy – Lockers and Desks: Students do not have the exclusive right to possession of the locker or desk to which s/he is assigned. The school reserves the right to conduct searches of lockers and desks as outlined in Section 2 above. Each student shall accept and use the assigned locker or desk on such basis.

5. Canine Searches: The school may conduct canine searches of school hallways, lockers, classrooms, buildings, parking lots and other school property through the use of a canine unit. A canine unit consists of a qualified handler and a dog(s) specially trained to detect illegal or prohibited substances, weapons or bombs. If an administrator, teacher, or other school employee, official, police or security personnel, have a reasonable suspicion to believe that a student(s) have in his/her/their possession an illegal item or an item that is prohibited by school policy or rules, the canine unit may search the student(s). Such a search may only be conducted on reasonable suspicion, described above in paragraph 3.

### **Classroom Management**

Since the classroom teacher is the one who works closest with the children, he or she carries the bulk of the supervision of discipline responsibility which is in accordance with all Federal regulations found under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Family Education Rights to Privacy Act, Free Appropriate Public Education and NRS 392.

Teachers are responsible for the environment of their classrooms. In every respect, rooms must be kept clean, orderly, attractive and stimulating. All classrooms must be supervised at all times by a SNACS staff member. Individual classroom teachers are responsible to assure effective supervision. Students are to be held accountable for their cooperation with teachers and other supervising adults. Teachers must document behaviors in an objective manner. Teachers will provide parents with a set of expected behaviors and consequences for their classroom. Additionally, NRS 391.270 prescribes that every teacher in the public school shall hold pupils to a strict account of their conduct on and in close proximity to the school grounds, on the playground, and during any intersession.

Teachers must also document interventions implemented before seeking administrative intervention. The only exception to this is when the safety of any person(s) is in question. It is important that the teacher work closely with the Executive Director, Education Director, the special education teacher, and/or behavior consultant (for special education students with behavior plans) and the parents in these matters and that communications are open and honest.



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### **Discipline and Conflict Resolution Related Curriculum**

SNACS will continue to research and implement curriculum related to discipline and conflict resolution. Such topics may include: anger management, peer cooperation, values and virtues programs, feelings journals, social skills training, etc. Structured conflict resolution activities will allow students to work cooperatively, make fair decisions, solve problems, and manage anger or fear without threatening or injuring others.

### **Bullying**

SNACS has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying. Bullying is defined as “a willful act or course of conduct on the part of one or more pupils which is not authorized by law and which exposes a pupil repeatedly and over time to one or more negative actions which is highly offensive to a reasonable person and is intended to cause and actually causes the pupil to suffer harm or serious emotional distress.” There are varieties of bullying that are not tolerated at SNACS. This includes, and not limited to; harassment, cyber-bullying, electronic communication, verbal statements, physical contact, and intimidation. Students and parents are encouraged to further study NRS 388.122 through 388.129.

### **Information Specific to 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

#### **Required Coursework**

Students must complete, with a passing grade, three (3) out of four (4) semesters of Math, three (3) out of four (4) semesters of English, two (2) out of four (4) semester of science and two (2) out of four (4) semesters of Social Studies to be promoted to 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The grades received in the first two quarters of the school year will be averaged for a first semester grade. The grades received in the last two quarters of a school year will be averaged for a second semester grade. One credit in each required subject area is available during each semester.

Parents and students in grades 7 and 8 will sign a form regarding required course credit.

### **Information Specific to High School**

#### **Required Coursework**

Students in high school work in compilation with SNACS certified teacher(s) for course credit. Additionally, students earn credit through Brigham Young University online portal. All high school students are given a Plan of Study\* identifying all required courses. Courses are to be completed on a semesterly basis, with 23 total credits in order to graduate high school.

### **Athletic Program**

While SNACS has no extra-curricular athletic program, parents of students who wish to compete in interscholastic sports and who are zoned for O'Brien Middle School, may contact the SNACS front office for a list of the various athletic departments, coaches, and contact numbers for programs offered at O'Brien Middle School. Parents will contact the coach of the sport their child wishes to participate in to inquire about times and dates for try-outs. It



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will be the parent's responsibility to arrange for transportation of their child to get to the try-out. If the student completes the try-out and is accepted on the team, they will be able to participate.

Students who participate in interscholastic sports must maintain a 3.0 GPA, and must be passing all classes. It may become necessary, during "away" games, for students to leave early. Students must be current on all coursework at the time of such an occurrence.

### **Lost and Found**

Lost and found items are stored in the front office. Parents should search for lost items and encourage their child(ren) to search for lost items on a regular basis. Sometimes you may



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not even know that an item is missing. All lost and found items will be donated to a local charity on the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Friday of each month.

### **School Store**

SNACS school store, "*The STAR Store*," is open during regular school hours. Merchandise includes school spirit items such as T-Shirts, mugs, magnets, license place holder, etc. School supplies, such as pencils, paper, glue, crayons, etc., and snacks, such as crackers, chips, granola bars and drinks are also available. Middle school students are encouraged to volunteer during the Rattler Shack hours.

SNACS promotes positive behavior through the use of Rattler Rubies, a school wide incentive given as a token for individual outstanding achievement. Rubies can be exchanged at the school store for various items as priced. Please visit the school store for more information.

### **School Fees**

SNACS has appropriate school fees for each of its classes. Families are expected to pay the fees for their child(ren) in a timely manner. Preferably SNACS accepts all fees at the beginning of the year. Teachers provide a specific amount of fees for each student. Families that are unable to pay the fees at the beginning of the year are permitted submit an arranged payment plan\* for all school fees. School fees for elementary grades (Kindergarten through Fifth grade) are \$80 annually and \$150 for middle/high school grades (Sixth through Eleventh).

### **Chromebooks**

All SNACS students in grades 5 through 8 will be provided a Chrome Book for the academic growth upon the submission of the lease fee of \$55. Students will be provided the Chrome Book when the fee and agreement form\* is submitted to their teacher(s). Chrome Books are vital to the academic curriculum of SNACS and all respected students are expected to possess, maintain, utilize, and keep Chrome Books on hand during regular school days. Chrome Books are expected to travel between home and school regularly.

### **No Cash Policy**

SNACS prefers not to accept cash for anything except lunch, field trips and school store purchases. Under no circumstances should a school employee accept cash for Educare or Enhancement. Checks or money orders will be the preferred and accepted method of payment. SNACS is also now accepting credit cards as a form of payment.



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### **Returned Check Policy**

SNACS gladly accepts checks for payment of breakfast, lunch, Educare, Enhancement, and any other program that requires a fee to be paid. However, in the event that SNACS receives a check that is returned by the bank for "Insufficient Funds," SNACS will charge a \$25.00 (bank) returned check fee and a \$12.50 processing fee. SNACS will no longer accept checks from the person who wrote the returned check. SNACS reserves the right to seek legal recourse to collect all funds and costs associated with collecting on a returned check.

### **Asbestos in Schools Program**

The Environmental Protection Agency requires schools to conduct an Asbestos Inspection and a management plan therein. SNACS completed the inspection and management plan with the assistance of Hazard Management Services, Inc. The AHERA Inspection and Management Plan are available for review by contacting the front office.

### **Parent Communication**

SNACS communicates regularly to parents through a variety of sources. Our website, [www.snacs.org](http://www.snacs.org), is regularly updated and delivers information related to academics, events, teacher lesson plans and newsletters, community activities, parental forum, calendar, preschool information, board member identification, and various web site links. SNACS also utilizes the telephone automated system Blackboard Connect to deliver pertinent and immediate information to all staff, parents, and students of SNACS. This system is also able to send messages through text form. SNACS also advertises in various educational publications. These publications are delivered to specific populations related to the school. The administrators, teachers, and teacher assistants also communicate to parents regarding their child's performance through the daily tracker (agenda). Information can be related to, but not limited to, upcoming events, daily status, academic standings, and more.

### **Public/Parent Complaint and Resolution Policy**

SNACS has established a complaint and resolution policy outlined here that provides the procedures for parents or other community members to submit and resolve complaints regarding SNACS. The procedures here are outlined for general complaints that are not addressed in other sections of this Handbook, which have other specific resolution processes. SNACS' desire is that the issues will be addressed and dealt with utilizing the fewest number of steps possible.

The process shall be followed as outline below:

- (1) Informal Resolution Process. Individuals must first attempt to resolve an issue through an Informal Resolution Process, wherein the individual addresses the issue directly with the employee involved.



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- (2) Formal Resolution Process. If that Informal Resolution Process is unable to resolve the issue, the individual must submit a written complaint to the SNACS Administrator on the SNACS Public Complaint Form to begin the Formal Resolution Process.
- a. The Formal Resolution Process will commence upon submission of the Complaint Form, which must be submitted within thirty (30) calendar days of the occurrence giving rise to the complaint.
  - b. The Administrator shall investigate the matter and proceed as follows:
    - i. Arrange a conference with the Complainant regarding the particulars of the written complaint within 20 days from receipt of the written complaint.
    - ii. Question witnesses that may have personal knowledge or information regarding the particulars of the complaint, if any.
    - iii. Provide the Complainant a written response/resolution within 20 days after receiving all information deemed necessary by the administrator.
    - iv. If the parties agree to the resolution, the Administrator and Complainant shall execute a copy of the resolution.
- (3) Appeal. If the Formal Resolution Process is unsuccessful an appeal may be filed with the Board of Directors, who then may choose to hear additional information at a Board meeting and will ultimately make a final decision, not subject to appeal.

Please note that the Board will not become involved in a grievance until the final step of the process. Board members are encouraged to refer any member of the school community who may approach them with a grievance to the school's grievance policy and the proper process for resolving the issue.