

MIDLAND ACADEMY
2023-2024
STUDENT HANDBOOK



APPROVED BY THE MIDLAND ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JULY 17, 2023

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PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Student Handbook is to give Midland Academy students and their parents an understanding of the general rules and guidelines for attending and receiving an education in our school.

The Handbook is organized in the following sections:

- Required Legal Notices and Information
- General Information about Admission, Attendance, and Conduct
- Curriculum and Program Information
- Of Special Interest to Students
- Of Special Interest to Parents

When the Handbook uses "we" or "our," it means the school district and/or school administrators. When the Handbook uses "you" or "your," it means the parent, legal guardian, or person who has accepted responsibility for a student, at least in regard to school matters. From time to time, the Handbook will use more general terms, such as

“parents” and “school officials.” Regardless of the particular terminology, our intention is to speak directly to you as the adults who are responsible for working with us, the school officials, to make your child’s experience with Midland Academy a positive educational experience.

The Student Handbook has been developed by school district administrators with assistance of teachers, students, and parents. The content is reviewed by the Board of Trustees and is intended to be consistent with formally adopted school board policies. If there is an apparent contradiction between information in the Handbook and a formally adopted board policy, the school administration will interpret the Handbook in a way that is consistent with policy and may request guidance from the Board of Trustees.

The Student Handbook is not a contract between the school and parents or students. It can be amended at any time at the discretion of the school district. If the district makes changes to the Handbook during a school year, the administration of the district and the campus will communicate those changes in ways that are designed to inform parents and students of the new or revised information.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Dear Student and Parent:

Midland Academy provides this Student Handbook to parents and students to provide you with information about the general rules and guidelines for attending and receiving an education in our school.

We urge you to read this publication thoroughly and to discuss it among your family. If you have any questions about the information here, we encourage you to ask for an explanation from the student’s teacher or campus administrator.

REQUIRED LEGAL NOTICES

Nondiscrimination: Midland Academy Charter School does not discriminate in its educational programs and services, including its career and technology education programs, on the basis of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, or disability. The District complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Any questions or concerns about the

district's compliance with these federal programs should be brought to the attention of the person shown below as Title IX or Section 504 Coordinator.

The Title IX Coordinator for the school district is Kent Coker, whose office is located at 500 N. Baird Street and who can be reached by telephone by calling 432-686-0003. The Section 504 Coordinator for the school district is Melissa Mauldin, whose office is located at 500 N. Baird Street and who can be reached by telephone by calling 432-686-0003.

Homeless Liaison and Title I Participants: The campus superintendent is our liaison for services to students who are determined to be homeless, as defined by federal law. If you believe your child may be eligible for services or assistance, contact the campus superintendent at 432-686-0003.

Melissa Mauldin is our Parent Involvement Coordinator who works with families and children participating in Title I programs. If you have questions about the program or need assistance related to the program, contact Melissa Mauldin at 432-686-0003.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act: The school district creates and keeps general education records for all students enrolled in district schools. Those records are confidential and generally are available only to parents and school personnel or other people who are acting on behalf of the school district. When we say "parents" have a right of access to and copies of all education records pertaining to their children, we mean all biological or legal parents—whether married, divorced, or separated—and any other person with whom the child resides and who is acting as a parent in the absence of the child's parent or legal guardian.

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Parents control the access to their children's education records until the child becomes an adult at age 18. When the child reaches age 18, she or he controls the access to his or her records and is the one who can consent to the release of the records to other persons. However, parents continue to have a right to see and obtain a copy of their child's education records so long as the child is a dependent for federal income tax purposes, even if the child does not want them to.

If a parent wants to see or obtain a copy of his or her child's education records, she or he should contact the dean of the child's school if the child is currently enrolled. If the child has withdrawn or graduated, parents should contact the school superintendent for access to records. Records can be reviewed in the administrative office during regular office hours, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., and someone will be available to answer questions about the records.

Originals cannot be removed from the dean's or superintendent's office. Copies will be provided to parents within a reasonable time after parents have made a written request for copies. Parents will be charged the district's usual copying fees for copies; however, if the student is eligible for free or reduced price lunches and the parents cannot come to school to review the records, the school will provide one copy of the requested records at no charge.

If you disagree with information in your child's records or believe some information is inaccurate, you can ask for a correction. If the dean does not make the correction, you can ask for a hearing with the superintendent to explain why you believe the record is wrong or misleading. If the superintendent does not direct an amendment to be made, you have 30 days to place a comment in the student's record about the information. **Under no circumstances can students or parents use this process to challenge a grade recorded for a student.**

Because parents generally control access to their children's education records, Midland Academy ordinarily will not permit access to or copies of education records without at least one parent's written authorization to release the records. **However, under some circumstances, the district can and will provide access to or copies of education records without parent authorization. The most common circumstances are these:**

- Midland Academy will forward education records on request to a public or private school or institution of higher education in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.
- Midland Academy may disclose education records to a contractor, consultant, volunteer, or other person who is performing services for the school, who is under the school's control related to the use of the records, and who has complied with Midland Academy limitations on the re-disclosure of personally identifiable information from education records.

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- Midland Academy will comply with a lawful subpoena for student education records, but will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents before complying, unless the subpoena indicates that parents should not be notified.
- Midland Academy will release directory information about students to any person who submits a written request for the information, as provided in the DIRECTORY INFORMATION notice included in this Student Handbook.
- Midland Academy will release educational records to a juvenile justice agency in accordance with an agreement between the district and the agency. The information will be released before the student is adjudicated and will be provided so that the juvenile agency can appropriately serve the student.
- Midland Academy will release educational records to "school officials," meaning any employees, trustees, or agents of the school, including persons employed in shared services arrangements or cooperatives of which the school is a member, school volunteers, parents or students serving on official committees, and the school's legal counsel, who have a "legitimate educational interest" in the records, meaning they are persons who work directly with your child at school or

any school activity, including officials involved in disciplinary or academic decisions affecting your child directly, persons who are compiling statistical data for the district, who are reviewing such records to fulfill their employment responsibilities, or who are investigating or evaluating school programs.

If you believe the district is not following the law regarding student records, you have the right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Family Policy Compliance Office.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting information unless the parent or guardian objects to the release of the directory information about the student.

If you do not want Midland Academy to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the district in writing by September 1, 2023.

Midland Academy has designated the following information about your child as directory information: name, address, telephone listing, school e-mail, address, photograph, degrees, honors, awards received, date of birth, place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, most recent school attended, security recordings unless used to impose discipline, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height & weight of members of athletic teams.

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Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment: We do not require students to participate in any surveys that are funded with any U.S. Department of Education funds that concern the following topics unless you (or your child if he or she is an adult) give us your prior consent. You will also have the opportunity to inspect the survey in advance. If we administer surveys that concern any of these topics that are funded from other sources, we will give you advance notice of the survey, allow you an opportunity to inspect the survey, and give you an opportunity to opt-out of the survey. The topics that are covered by this notice are:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his or her parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or his or her family;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of others with whom the responding students have close family relationships;

6. legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his or her parent; or
8. income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Invasive Examinations or Screenings: We do not perform any invasive physical examinations or screenings as a condition of attendance. We do perform vision, hearing and scoliosis screenings, as required by state law. Please contact the school nurse if you have questions regarding those screenings.

Teacher Qualifications: You may request the following information, which we will provide to you in a timely manner:

1. Whether your child's teacher(s) have met state qualification and licensing criteria for their grade levels and subject areas.
2. Whether your child's teacher(s) are serving under emergency or other provisional status that is less than full state certification.
3. The bachelor's degree major of your child's teacher(s) and any graduate degrees held, and the field of certification or degree.
4. Whether your child receives services from paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education:

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the district's overall general education referral or 7 screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other support services that are available to all students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the district must decide if the evaluation is needed. If evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for the evaluation. The district must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the district determines that the evaluation is not needed, the district will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of their rights if they disagree with the district. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards - Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities.

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is:

Contact Person: Jennifer Currie
Phone Number: 432-686-0003

Bacterial Meningitis Information: What is meningitis? Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord---also called the meninges. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral (aseptic) meningitis is common; most people recover fully. Medical management of viral meningitis consists of supportive treatment and there is usually no indication for the use of antibiotics. Parasitic and fungal meningitis are very rare. Bacterial meningitis is very serious and may involve complicated medical, surgical, pharmaceutical, and life support management.

There are two common types of bacteria that cause meningitis: - Strep pneumoniae causes pneumococcal meningitis; there are over 80 subtypes that cause illness - Neisseria meningitidis—Meningococcal meningitis; there are 5 subtypes that cause serious illness—A, B, C, Y, W-135

What are the symptoms?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms, but any of the following are possible. Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have:

- Severe headache
- High temperature
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to bright lights
- Neck stiffness, joint pains
- Drowsiness or confusion

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*In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots or bruises caused by bleeding under the skin. These can occur anywhere on the body. They are a sign of blood poisoning (septicemia), which sometimes happens with meningitis, particularly the meningococcal strain.

What is the risk of getting bacterial meningitis?

The risk of getting bacterial meningitis in all age groups is about 2.4 cases per 100,000 population per year. However, the highest risk group for the most serious form of the disease, meningococcal meningitis, is highest among children 2 to 18 years old.

How serious is bacterial meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability, such as deafness, blindness, amputations or brain damage (resulting in mental retardation or paralysis) even with prompt treatment.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes). The germ **does not** cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become **carriers** of the germ for days, weeks or even months. Being a carrier helps to stimulate the body's natural defense system. The bacteria rarely overcomes the body's immune system and causes meningitis or another serious illness.

How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss. Vaccines against pneumococcal disease are recommended both for young children and adults over 64. A vaccine against four meningococcal serogroups (A, C, Y, W-135) is available. These four groups cause the majority of meningococcal cases in the United States. This vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85-90%). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within 7 to 10 days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to 5 years.

What you should do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

Seek prompt medical attention.

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How is bacterial meningitis diagnosed?

The diagnosis is usually based on a combination of clinical symptoms and laboratory results from spinal fluid and blood. Spinal fluid is obtained by a lumbar puncture (spinal tap).

For more information

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about the meningococcal vaccine.

Additional information may also be found at the web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov and the Texas Department of Health: www.tdh.state.tx.us.

Pest Control: Periodically, district buildings and grounds are treated by licensed or trained individuals to control unwanted pests, such as insects and rodents. We will post notices of those treatment dates as required by law and will schedule treatment times when students or employees are least likely to be in the building or on the grounds.

Asbestos Management Plan: The district's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations addressing asbestos that may have been used in District facilities, is available in the Superintendent's office during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you have any questions, please contact Kent Coker, at 432-686-0003.

GENERAL INFORMATION

2023-2024 School Calendar

The **2023-2024** Midland Academy calendar is available in the appendix and at www.macharter.org

Student's Legal Name

While we recognize that there are circumstances when a parent may wish his or her child to be enrolled under a name other than the child's legal name, we are required to maintain all school records for your child under the child's legal surname as shown on the birth certificate or other recognized document to prove the child's identity or as shown in a court order changing the child's name.

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Admission, Release, Withdrawal

Attendance documentation which includes absences, tardies, Academic Progress and Discipline Referrals will be reviewed by the dean or designee at the end of each six-week grading cycle. Any student who has excessive absences, lack of academic progress or repeated violations of the Student Code of Conduct will be required to attend a conference with either the Attendance Committee, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), or Campus Administrator.

The purpose of the Admission Process is to establish a student's eligibility to attend Midland Academy. Eligibility is determined primarily on whether the student lives in the geographic area served by Midland Academy Charter School and whether the student is in a grade level offered by Midland Academy Charter School. Midland Academy can reject a student's application for admission if it is determined:

1. that the applicant provided false information on the admissions application;

2. that the later review of the applicant's education records indicates that the student should be placed in a grade level for which there are not spaces available; or
3. that the later review of disciplinary records indicates that the student is disqualified from admissions eligibility.

After the student is enrolled, the formal admission and enrollment process ends. The student is officially part of Midland Academy, which now has the privileges and responsibilities associated with that student's education.

We do not admit underage students to school. Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year to be admitted in Kindergarten. To be admitted to first grade, your child must be 6 years old on or before September 1 of the current year or must have completed kindergarten, or been enrolled in first grade, in the public schools of another state.

The application for admission and enrollment forms are official government records, and it is a crime to provide false information of any kind or false records for identification. School officials can ask parents or another adult enrolling a student to provide some evidence that they are bona fide residents of the area which Midland Academy serves. As required by law, we will record the name, address, and date of birth of the person enrolling a student.

At the time of enrollment, we will request that you disclose whether your child has a food allergy or a severe food allergy (including the food to which the child is allergic and the nature of the allergic reaction) that, in your judgment, should be disclosed so that district officials may take necessary precautions regarding the child's safety. This information is confidential and will be disclosed only to those employees who need the information to appropriately care for your child.

Certain Transfers—Victims of Bullying and Sexual Assault or Students Who Have Engaged in Bullying

If you believe that your child is the victim of bullying (see the definition in the Student Code of Conduct), you may request a transfer to another classroom. If we verify that your child is the victim of bullying, the transfer will be made. Our decision on this kind of transfer is final and cannot be appealed to the board or any other authority.

If your child is determined to have engaged in bullying of any other student, he or she may be transferred to another classroom. We will consult with you about the transfer before it is accomplished.

Release During the School Day

Students will be allowed to leave school during the school day only with the permission

of the dean or someone in the dean's office who has been given the authority to release students. Parents cannot go directly to their child's classroom and take the child away from school during the day. Teachers do not have the authority to let children leave their classroom with anyone. If you need to take your child from school before the end of the school day, such as for a medical appointment or a family emergency, you should go to the school's front office and sign the child out. The teacher will send the child to the front office, and she or he will be released to you at that time.

At the time children are enrolled, the parent or other adult completing the enrollment forms should list those people who are authorized to pick up children during the school day. **Unless the dean has a current court order signed by a judge, showing an official file stamp with the court, and indicating that a parent's right of access to and possession of his or her child has been limited in some way, the dean will release children to either parent.**

Students will not ordinarily be released during the school day to participate in private lessons or other instruction. If you believe you have a special situation that would warrant an exception to this rule, please contact the campus dean to schedule a conference about your situation.

Withdrawing from School

Children who are under age 18 will not be permitted to withdraw from school unless a parent, legal guardian, or other adult with responsibility for the child comes to the school to complete the necessary forms. Students must return all textbooks issued to them and clear any library fines and other outstanding fees in order for the school to release an official copy of the student's records to the parents or to another school district.

Attendance Requirements

State compulsory attendance laws generally require all children between the ages of six and 18 to attend school each day that school is in session. A student who is younger than six and has never been enrolled in the first grade is required to attend school.

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Once a parent enrolls a child in kindergarten or pre-kindergarten, the child is required to attend school that school year.

Regular attendance is critical to your child's success in school. It is also critical to Midland Academy's success because it is a factor in the district and campus rating under the state accountability system and is a significant factor in the amount of state financial aid Midland Academy is entitled to receive.

Attendance records, which include daily attendance, tardies, and early-outs, will be reviewed weekly. If it is determined that a student exceeds a combination of two undocumented absences, tardies, or early outs, within a 6-week period, the parent will be notified by letter and scheduled to meet with the Attendance Committee to explain the attendance issue. Students who fail to adhere to the attendance policy may be withdrawn from enrollment at Midland Academy or asked not to return the following

school year.

Of course, there are times when children are sick or have other legitimate reasons for being absent from school. Regardless of the age of your child, if he or she will not be at school, the parent/guardian must call the school office to let them know of the absences. Upon returning to school, the student must bring a note signed by the parent or medical professional explaining the reason for the child's absence. The dean or someone acting for the dean will make the final decision whether an absence is classified as excused or unexcused. For questions regarding what constitutes excused, unexcused and documented absences, please ask the attendance clerk or refer to the Student Handbook. If the student does not bring a signed note within two (2) days of returning to school, the absence will be classified as unexcused. Students ordinarily will not be permitted to make up missed classwork assignments for credit if the absence is unexcused.

Doctor and Dental Appointments: Absences for appointments with doctors, dentists, orthodontists, physical therapists, and other health care professionals will be classified as excused absences if the student returns to school on the same day as the appointment and presents a note from the health care provider stating the time of the appointment and the time the student left the doctor's office. If the appointment is at the end of the school day and the student has been at school all day up to that time, the absence will be excused if the student brings a note from the health care provider the following day. These excused absences include those for a student diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder to attend appointments with health care practitioners to receive a generally recognized service for persons with that diagnosis, such as applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Religious Holidays: Absences for religious holy days, including up to two days of travel time if necessary, will be classified as excused absences.

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Court Appearances: Absences for required court appearances will be classified as excused absences upon presentation to the campus attendance official of a copy of the document requiring the student's appearance in court.

Sounding "Taps" at a Veteran's Funeral: Absences by students in grades 6-8 for the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a veteran's funeral with military honors may be excused upon verification that the student provided the service noted.

Citizenship/Naturalization Activities: Absences for appearing at a government office to complete citizenship application paperwork and for taking part in a United States naturalization oath ceremony will be excused upon verification of the student's participation.

Attendance and Credit

Separate and apart from the compulsory attendance requirements, students must attend school a certain amount of time in order to get credit for their academic work. State law generally requires students to be “in attendance” for at least 90 percent of the days a class is taught during a semester or year. The attendance for credit standard for Midland Academy is 95 percent of the days a class is taught during a semester or year. All absences from class, excused or unexcused, are counted in determining whether a student has met attendance for credit requirements.

In the 2023-2024 school year, we require students to be in class for 78 days in the Fall Semester and 77 days in the Spring Semester to meet the 95% attendance for credit requirements. Midland Academy has an attendance committee that will review student attendance records. If the committee decides that extenuating circumstances prevented a student from meeting the minimum attendance for credit standard or fulfilling the dean’s plan for meeting instructional requirements, the committee can award credit or tell the student what additional work, additional time, or both time and work must be completed in order for the student to get credit for the grade level or course.

You will be notified when your child is in danger of losing credit because of absences and will have the opportunity to meet with the attendance committee to discuss your child’s situation.

Conduct and Discipline

Along with this Student Handbook, your child has also received a copy of the Midland Academy Student Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct contains the school district’s requirements for student conduct and behavior while at school or under the school’s jurisdiction. The Code of Conduct also explains the kinds of disciplinary action school officials can take in response to violations of the rules for student conduct and the steps involved in taking disciplinary action. If you have any questions about conduct or discipline rules, please refer to the Code of Conduct or call your child’s dean.

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Personal Electronic Devices

Personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, tablets, smart watches) are not allowed during the instructional day. Students may bring these items to school; however, the homeroom teacher will collect devices at the beginning of the day and return them before dismissal. If a device is not turned in voluntarily but is discovered there will be a \$15.00 cash fee (exact amount, no change available) in order to obtain the device. If a device is discovered a second time, there will be a \$20.00 cash fee (exact amount, no change available) in order to obtain the device. If a device is discovered a third time, there will be a \$30.00 cash fee (exact amount, no change available) in order to obtain the device.

Dress and Grooming Code

Standard Attire for Students

School Uniforms & Uniform Exemption Days

To help create an environment conducive to learning, students at Midland Academy are required to wear a simple uniform. This policy is designed to permit students to focus their attention on academics and on those aspects of their personalities that are truly important.

All uniform clothing must be in generally good condition, not overly worn, and without stains. Uniform clothing must also fit appropriately, not being more than one size too large or be undersized.

Uniform clothing should in no way depict drugs, sex, violence, skulls and crossbones, alcohol, or anything deemed a distraction by school administration. Children can wear any outerwear to and from school, but non-uniform outerwear must be removed when inside the school building and classrooms. Outerwear includes such items as sunglasses, coats/jackets, hooded sweatshirts, hats, scarves, and gloves. Wearing outerwear in the building could result in the item being confiscated and/or lunch detention, and a phone call to the parent.

The school reserves the right to require compliance with this policy and to make exceptions, such as excluding certain items, grooming or dress, in an effort to maintain a learner-centered environment.

Accessories & Jewelry

Girls may wear simple stud earrings (one per ear) that do not hang from the ear. Boys cannot wear earrings at any time. No piercing other than in the ear is allowed. No other jewelry is allowed (excluding grades 7th & 8th). No excessive jewelry. Make-up is not permitted for students in K-6th Grades.

Wristwatches are allowed, but must not have lights or sounds to distract from instruction. Smart watches are considered electronic devices and will need to be turned in at the beginning of class each day. Tattoos and body glitter are not allowed.

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Fake, artificial nails, dipped, or acrylic nails are not allowed at any time. Boys may not have colored or painted fingernails at school or school sponsored events.

Hair

Hair must be kept neat, clean and out of the eyes. No facial hair is allowed. For boys, hair should not extend below the jawline or over the shirt collar. No drastic hairstyles (such as Mohawks, shaved letters/numbers/designs) or unnatural hair colors are allowed. Shaved heads of any kind are not allowed unless in the form of a complete burr. Bandana-style headbands or caps are not allowed inside the building. Headbands should be flat across the head. Headbands that depict cat ears, unicorns or any other

distractor are not allowed. No sweatbands are allowed on the head or wrists.

Belts

Belts must be plain, a brown or black color. Belts should not have jewels or metal beading. If a garment has belt loops, the student must wear a belt (excluding Kindergarten & 1st grade). Belt loops cannot be removed from a garment.

Shoes

Shoes must be closed-toed and closed-heeled and be appropriate for recess and Physical Education class. No Sandals are allowed. **Students are encouraged to wear Tennis/Athletic shoes daily.** No shoes with wheels or lights are allowed. Shoelaces must remain tied. Boots are allowed, but must be changed for P.E. High-heeled footwear (more than 1 inch) is not allowed.

Socks and Tights

White, black, navy, or gray (solid color) socks or hosiery must be worn at all times regardless of shoe type.

Shirts

Shirts must be white, gray, maroon, navy, or black (must be a solid color). Shirts may be short or long-sleeved solid color polo, turtleneck or Oxford type with collar. Shirts must be buttoned to within two (2) buttons from the top. All shirts must be tucked in while at school (excluding Kindergarten & 1st grade). No logos will be permitted on shirts.

Undershirts

Undershirts must be white, gray, navy, or black (must be a solid color). Undershirts may have short or long sleeves. Turtleneck shirts can be worn under the collared uniform shirt, but must be white, maroon, gray, navy, or black.

Sweaters/Sweatshirts

Sweaters/Sweatshirts must be navy, gray, maroon, white, or black. Cardigan sweaters, fleece jackets or sweatshirts are allowed to be worn **at all times.**

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Sweaters/Sweatshirts must be solid color. Sweaters/Sweatshirts must be worn over a collared standard attire shirt. Collar must be visible. Sweaters/Sweatshirts cannot have hoodie or drawstrings and must be banded at the waist. The "One Size Rule" applies. The "One Size Rule" requires that the garment be only one size larger than a student's actual measurement to allow for growth.

Pants/Shorts/Skirts/Jumpers

Pants/Shorts/Skirts/Jumpers must be navy or khaki. Garments are to be fitted and not baggy. **Sagging will not be allowed. One-size rule will be enforced.**

No ripped, torn, or clothing with holes are allowed. Garments must be hemmed. Skirts and shorts can only be three (3) inches above the knee this includes the slit on skirts.

Girls may wear leggings/tights under skirts (3-inch rule applies), but they must be solid white, gray, black or navy. Leggings/Jeggings may not be worn as pants.

Harassment or Bullying of Students

We prohibit students from sexually harassing other students and from sexually harassing employees; we also prohibit harassment based on anyone's race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability. Likewise, we prohibit students from bullying each other. Engaging in harassment or in bullying is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

We, of course, prohibit employees from having any kind of sexual contact or romantic relationship with students enrolled in our schools, even if the student is willing and the parents do not object. See the Student Code of Conduct for a complete description of the offense of "harassment" and possible disciplinary consequences.

If you or your child have a complaint about sexual comments, conduct, contact, or any other inappropriate conduct by a school employee or about any other kind of harassment or bullying, do not hesitate to contact the Title IX coordinator whose name appears at the beginning of this Handbook regarding sexual harassment or regarding any other harassment or bullying. We will listen to your concern and conduct a prompt investigation, if warranted based on the allegations. We will also look into reports if other students have been making sexual or other harassing comments to or engaging in bullying or sexual or other inappropriate conduct or contact with your child at school or school activities and take appropriate disciplinary action according to the requirements of the Code of Conduct.

Although we will provide you a general report of the results of our investigation of harassment complaints, the same federal law that protects the confidentiality of information about your child (see Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, page 6) protects the confidentiality of information about the student you reported for investigation. In other words, we will not ordinarily disclose to you the specific discipline imposed on another student, unless that student's parents give us permission to disclose that information. If the complaint is about an employee's conduct, we will inform you of the results of the investigation and of the general action taken in response if there is a finding of wrong-doing on the employee's part.

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Copies of the complete policies and procedures addressing prohibited bullying, harassment, or retaliation and the process for making reports or complaints related to alleged harassment or retaliation are included on Midland Academy's website at www.macharter.org

Searches of Students and Vehicles on School Property

The dean or other school administrator can search a student's outer clothing, pockets, or property if she or he has a reasonable basis to suspect that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated a school rule. The scope of the search will be related to the suspected violation.

Vehicles parked on school property are also subject to search by the dean or other

school administrators if the administrator has a reasonable basis to suspect that there may be contraband of any kind, such as weapons, alcohol, drugs, or any other prohibited substance, in the car.

Questioning Students at School

As school officials, we have the right to question your child about his or her own conduct at school and, in the investigation of alleged misconduct by other students or employees, to question him or her about the conduct of others. We expect students to cooperate in this process, and the refusal to cooperate will be treated as insubordination and disciplined accordingly. We will not ordinarily contact you before questioning your child about his or her own conduct or about the conduct of other students or employees, but certainly will contact you as provided in the Student Code of Conduct if our investigation shows that your child has violated school conduct rules. The Code of Conduct provides a complete explanation of the discipline processes and when you will be contacted. Our investigation of possible violations of the Code of Conduct is not a criminal proceeding, and there is no such thing as “taking the Fifth” or a student’s right not to incriminate himself or herself in a school discipline investigation. Sometimes law enforcement officials or investigators from Child Protective Services (CPS) ask to interview students at school. In the case of an investigator from Child Protective Services conducting a child abuse or neglect investigation, we are required by state law to permit the investigator to talk to the child at school. We will also make every effort to cooperate with law enforcement officials conducting an investigation that requires talking to students.

Ordinarily, we will attempt to contact you before the interview by an outside person takes place. However, if the CPS investigator or the law enforcement official asks or tells us not to contact you, we will comply.

Pledges, Moment of Silence, Prayer, and Meditation

Each day students will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag and to the Texas flag. If you do not want your child to participate in this activity, please make a written request to the dean for your child to be excused. Following the

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recitation of the pledges, the school will observe a minute of silence. During this time, students may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract other students.

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school or at any school activity in a manner that does not disrupt or interfere with the delivery of instruction or other activities in the school. No school employee can or will require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS

General Curriculum Information

Midland Academy operates a K – 8th Grade program that meets all state curriculum requirements.

Structured Physical Activity

In accordance with state law, we ensure that all students in elementary school and junior high school engage in the amount and level of physical activity required by the State Board of Education. Students engage in physical education classes and daily recess periods.

Special Programs

To meet the requirements of state and federal law, we also offer several programs designed to meet specific needs of some of our students. We identify students as eligible for one or more of these programs based on assessments made after referrals and recommendations from teachers and counselors and will always inform you about the program beforehand. We also can identify students based on an assessment after a request or referral from you. If you have any questions about the referral and identification process for any of the following programs, please contact your child's teacher(s), or the campus principal.

Special Education: Midland Academy provides special education and related services for students with disabilities according to individualized plans developed by teachers, parents, counselors, and other professionals. You may request an evaluation of your child to determine eligibility for special education at any time. Please note that a request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally and does not need to be in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require

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the district or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline. We decide whether a student needs special education after we complete a comprehensive assessment. Please contact Kent Coker, Superintendent at 432-686-0003 to receive full information about our special education programs. See also the required Notice at the beginning of this Handbook.

Section 504: Some students who are not eligible for special education and related services may also have disabilities that interfere with their ability to benefit from the

regular school program. A committee of educators who have knowledge of the student and his or her needs and limitations will determine what accommodations to the regular method and requirements of instruction are necessary in order for the student to participate. Please contact Melissa Mauldin to receive full information about the school's Section 504 program.

Aiding Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need Special Education or Section 504 Services

For those students who are having difficulty in the regular classroom, all school districts and open enrollment charter schools must consider tutorial, compensatory, and other academic or behavior support services that are available to all students, including a process based on Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The implementation of MTSS has the potential to have a positive impact on the ability of districts and charter schools to meet the needs of all struggling students.

If a student is experiencing learning difficulties, his or her parent may contact the individual(s) listed below to learn about the school's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including making a referral for a special education evaluation or for a Section 504 evaluation to determine if the student needs specific aids, accommodations, or services. A parent may request an evaluation for special education or Section 504 services at any time.

Special Education Referrals:

If a parent makes a written request for an initial evaluation for special education services to the director of special education services or an administrative employee of the school district or open enrollment charter school, the district or charter school must respond no later than 15 school days after receiving the request. At that time, the district or charter school must give the parent a prior written notice of whether it agrees to or refuses to evaluate the student, along with a copy of the Notice of Procedural Safeguards. If the school district or charter school agrees to evaluate the student, it must also give the parent the opportunity to give written consent for the evaluation.

Please note that a request for a special education evaluation must be made in writing. Districts and charter schools must still comply with all federal prior written notice and 20 procedural safeguard requirements and the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of being a child with a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district or charter school to respond within the 15-school-day timeline.

If the district or charter school decides to evaluate the student, it must complete the student's initial evaluation and evaluation report no later than 45 school days from the day it receives a parent's written consent to evaluate the student. However, if the

student is absent from school during the evaluation period for three or more school days, the evaluation period will be extended by the number of school days equal to the number of school days that the student is absent.

There is an exception to the 45-school-day timeline. If a district or charter school receives a parent's consent for the initial evaluation at least 35 but less than 45 school days before the last instructional day of the school year, it must complete the written report and provide a copy of the report to the parent by June 30 of that year. However, if the student is absent from school for three or more days during the evaluation period, the June 30th due date no longer applies. Instead, the general timeline of 45 school days plus extensions for absences of three or more days will apply.

Upon completing the evaluation, the district or charter school must give the parent a copy of the evaluation report at no cost.

Additional information regarding special education is available from the district or charter school in a companion document titled Parent's Guide to the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Process.

Contact Person for Special Education Referrals:

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for special education services is:

Contact Person: Jennifer Currie

Phone Number: 432-686-0003

Section 504 Referrals:

Each school district or charter school must have standards and procedures in place for the evaluation and placement of students in the district's or charter school's Section 504 program. Districts and charter schools must also implement a system of procedural safeguards that includes notice, an opportunity for a parent or guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with an opportunity for participation by the parent or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure.

Contact Person for Section 504 Referrals:

The designated person to contact regarding options for a student experiencing learning difficulties or regarding a referral for evaluation for Section 504 services is: Contact Person: Jennifer Currie

Phone Number: 432-686-0003

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Additional Information:

The following websites provide information and resources for students with disabilities and their families.

- [Legal Framework for the Child-Centered Special Education Process](#)

- [Partners Resource Network](#)
- [Special Education Information Center](#)
- [Texas Project First](#)

English as a Second Language: English is the basic language of instruction in our schools. Children who have limited English-speaking skills will have access to programs to help them learn to understand, speak, read, and write the English language. At the time you enroll your children for the first time, you will be asked to complete a Home Language Survey so we know whether to take additional steps to be sure your child is properly served.

Gifted and Talented Students: Some children demonstrate or show a potential for demonstrating a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to other children of similar age, experience, or environment. These children may perform at a very high level in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area, show an unusually high capacity for leadership, or excel in a particular academic field. We provide a variety of programs, activities, and learning opportunities for these students. Please contact your child's teacher or the dean to gain information about the G/T nomination process.

Accelerated or Intensive Instruction/Students At-Risk: Some students do not qualify for special education programs or Section 504 accommodations, but still need some additional assistance to be successful in school. We provide intensive or accelerated instruction in subjects where students are showing special difficulty and may provide specially focused instruction to improve students' language and math skills. Academic achievement will be closely monitored by teachers and the dean. You will be advised if the need for additional assistance for your child arises.

Counseling Programs and Services

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal, social, and family concerns, including emotional and mental health issues. A student who wishes to meet with the school counselor can either email the counselor or talk to a teacher. As a parent, if you are concerned about your child's mental and emotional health, please speak with the school counselor for a list of references that may be of

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assistance. If your child comes to see the school counselor a letter will be sent home to inform you of the visit. Please know that when your child comes to see the school counselor the conversation is confidential unless your child states that they are going to hurt themselves, someone else or if someone else is hurting them or someone else. School counselors are temporary until the parent can get their child into a Licensed Professional Counselor. (Please note that our school counselor is a certified school counselor and not a licensed professional counselor). The school counselor does have

extensive training in mental and emotional health issues and can assist until a licensed counselor can see them. Please know that in the past a permission slip was sent home by the school counselor to see your child more than once, by signing the student handbook you are giving the school counselor permission to see your child in either individual or group sessions. (A letter will be sent home informing you of any individual or group sessions your child is included in.) If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to the school counselor.

School Counselor: Melissa Mauldin mmauldin@macharter.org

Testing and Assessment Programs

Students in grades 3-8 are assessed using the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness ("STAAR").

Results of the state examinations are used to assess individual student progress, as well as being a significant factor in the campus and district ratings under the statewide and federal accountability systems. Please make every effort to have your children at school on state test administration days and to be sure that they have had plenty of rest the night before and a good breakfast that morning.

As required by state law, we will annually assess the physical fitness of students in grades 3-8. Midland Academy will administer core subject assessments for the purpose of planning and delivering quality instruction.

Grading and Report Cards

Teachers establish their grading standards, including penalties for late work, but those standards must be consistent with guidelines approved by the campus dean. If you have a question about a grade your child receives on an assignment, you should talk first with the teacher. An exam or course grade issued by the teachers is final and will not be changed unless we determine that it was arbitrary, erroneous, or not consistent with the grading standards and policy.

Report cards will be sent home at the end of each grading period. If your child is having trouble in a class, the teacher may ask you to schedule a conference. We encourage you to attend those conferences. Kindergarten will report student

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achievement on skills-based Progress Reports. 1st – 8th Grades will use traditional computer-generated report cards for communicating student achievement with parents.

1st Six Weeks begins – August 9, 2023 1st Six Weeks ends – September 21, 2023

2nd Six Weeks begins – September 25, 2023	2nd Six Weeks ends – November 3, 2023
3rd Six Weeks begins – November 6, 2023	3rd Six Weeks ends – December 21, 2023
4th Six Weeks begins – January 9, 2024	4th Six Weeks ends – February 15, 2024
5th Six Weeks begins – February 19, 2024	5th Six Weeks ends – April 5, 2024
6th Six Weeks begins – April 8, 2024 6th Six Weeks ends – May 22, 2024	

Promotion, Retention, Award of Credit

Students are promoted from grade to grade, or awarded credit for a course, based on their mastery of the knowledge and skills that will let them be successful at the next grade level. In secondary grades, students receive credit for a course when they have met all the state and local requirements for that credit.

If your child does not pass the STAAR after the first administration at a grade level, we will provide intensive instruction in your child’s area(s) of academic weakness. The promotion standard at Midland Academy for a student in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade is to pass 3 out of 4 core subjects with an overall average of 70. The core subjects are English Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science. For students in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades progress on STAAR assessments must be shown.

Library Facilities, Hours, and Access

Midland Academy has a library available for student research and study, with resources appropriate for needs of the grades served by the campus. The library is supervised by a library aide. Students have access to the library during the school day. If you have a concern about library materials available to your child, please contact the librarian, teacher, or the dean.

Educational Technology and Acceptable Use

We are steadily acquiring computers for school use and access to other instructional and research resources through connections to the Internet and the World Wide Web. These electronic instructional resources are for use at school and for school-related purposes. Before your child is permitted to receive a user identification and password to use school computers, you and your child must sign a User Agreement that explains acceptable and unacceptable use of school educational technology. You will have the choice to prevent your child from having access to the Internet on school computers.

The following kinds of use of the school's equipment or network are classified as unacceptable under our policy and the User Agreement:

1. Unauthorized use of copyrighted material, including violating Midland Academy software licensing agreements or installing any personal software on district equipment without approval of the Technology Director.
2. Viewing, posting or distribution of messages that are obscene, vulgar, profane, harassing, sexually oriented, sexually explicit, pornographic, offensive to others, threatening to others, or illegal, because a significant part of Midland Academy's educational mission is to inculcate or instill the habits and manners of civility and to teach students the boundaries of socially appropriate behavior.
3. Personal political use to advocate for or against a candidate, office-holder, political party, or political position, measure, or proposition. Research or electronic communications regarding political issues or candidates is not a violation when the activity is to fulfill an assignment for course credit.
4. Viewing or participating in social network sites or chat rooms other than those sponsored and overseen by Midland Academy.
5. Tampering with anyone else's computer, files, or e-mail.
6. "Hacking," i.e., attempting unauthorized access to any computer whether within Midland Academy's network or outside it.
7. Attempting to change, disable, or destroy Midland Academy equipment, files, or data or any other user's data or files, including introducing computer viruses into Midland Academy's system by any means.
8. Any use that would be unlawful under state or federal law.
9. Unauthorized disclosure, use, or distribution of personal identification information regarding students or employees.
10. Forgery of electronic mail messages or transmission of unsolicited junk e-mail chain messages.
11. Use that violates the student code of conduct.
12. Use related to commercial activities or for commercial gain.
13. Advertisement for purchase or sale of a product.

Students who violate the terms of the User Agreement may lose their computer privileges at school, as well as incur consequences under the school's Student Code of Conduct.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO STUDENTS

Extracurricular Activities

We offer some school-related extracurricular activities and encourage students to participate in those that are of interest to them. Some activities are closely related to subjects taught in the curriculum; others, such as National Junior Honor Society, help students build leadership skills.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. By state law, students must make a passing grade in all their classes in each grading period in order to be eligible to participate in any extracurricular performance or competition in the next grading period. Students who are ineligible because of one or more grades below 70 will be allowed to practice or rehearse during a suspension, but cannot perform or compete. If the student raises the grade(s) to passing within three weeks, she or he will regain eligibility to perform or compete.

The following groups, activities and organization are authorized extracurricular activities at Midland Academy: National Junior Honor Society and Orchestra. Students can miss a class no more than 10 times in the school year to participate in an approved extracurricular activity.

Student Publications/Distribution of Materials

All materials prepared and published as part of a school's language arts programs are under the control and supervision of the administration and the Board of Trustees. The superintendent has final approval authority on all materials published or distributed in the name of the school.

Before non-school materials or publications are made available to students in the designated area, they must be submitted to the dean for review and approval. The dean will make a decision within two school days after the materials are submitted, and his or her failure to act within that time is interpreted as disapproval. If the materials are disapproved, students can appeal to the superintendent using the student complaint policy.

Personal Graduation Plan

All students in grades 6-8, will be asked to participate in developing a personal graduation plan. The plan will identify your child's education goals and will take into consideration your educational expectations for your child. Students at all grade levels will engage in goal-setting activities which lead to the goal of graduating from high school.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO PARENTS

Parent Rights

Academic Programs: You can ask the dean to change your child's teacher or class assignment; however, the dean is not required to make the reassignment and will not do so ordinarily if that change would affect the assignment or reassignment of another student.

You can ask the school board to add a specific academic course to the schedule and offerings. If the administration and the board determine that the course is among those included in the State Board of Education-approved curriculum and that there is sufficient interest in the class to make it economically practical to offer the class, the request will not be unreasonably denied.

You can ask that your child be permitted to attend a class for credit above his or her grade level. If the dean and child's current and prospective teacher expect that the child can perform satisfactorily in the class, the request will not be unreasonably denied.

Teaching Materials: You may review all teaching materials, textbooks and other teaching aids used in your child's classroom and may review all tests administered to your child, after the test is given. To review these materials, please contact the homeroom teacher, who will make arrangements to provide you access to those materials at school during regular school hours.

Records and Other Information: As we stated in the "Required Notices" section of this Handbook, you have a right of access to all written educational records that we maintain concerning your child. You also can receive full information about any and all school activities in which your child is involved. However, as we explained in the section on "Questioning Students at School," we must comply with a request or directive from a Child Protective Services investigator regarding contact with or information to parents about an investigation.

Video and Audio Recording: We will seek and obtain your written consent before any school employee makes an audio or video recording of your child, except that your prior consent is not required before a recording that will be used only for:

- safety purposes, including maintaining order and discipline in common areas of the school or on school buses;
- a purpose related to a co-curricular or extracurricular activity;
- a purpose related to regular classroom instruction; or
- media coverage of the school.

Psychological Examinations: We will seek and obtain your written consent before conducting any psychological examination, test, or treatment of your child, unless the examination is part of an investigation by Child Protective Services in response to a report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect. If the examination or test is part of

the comprehensive assessment to see if your child needs special education or related services, before we obtain consent, on your request, we will provide you with

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information about the name and type of examination and how the examination will be used to develop an appropriate individualized program for your child.

Exemption from Instruction: You may temporarily remove your child from a class or other school activity that conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs if you provide a written statement authorizing the removal to your child's teacher. However, you are not entitled to remove your child from class or an activity to avoid taking a test or to prevent your child from taking a subject for an entire semester. Your child will be required to satisfy grade level or graduation requirements, regardless of any periods of temporary removal based on your religious or moral beliefs.

Campus Performance and Accountability: We will keep you informed annually of your children's campus ratings and whether the campus has been identified under state and federal law as one that needs improvement. If the campus is so identified, we will inform you of your rights regarding public school choice at that time. You will receive information with your child's report card for the first reporting period of each year related to the campus performance rating under the state accountability system if the information is available at that time.

Classroom Celebrations: Parents or guardians (with the exception of middle school) may provide any food product of their choice with the homeroom teacher's consent, to their child and his or her classmates on the occasion of the child's birthday or for any other school-designated function, such as class parties, bake sales, etc. This food product may not be taken to a classroom unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher and/or dean.

Visiting School

You are welcome to visit your child's school however, you must comply with our policy requiring **all** visitors to go first to the front office and sign in. We have this policy for the safety of your children and our staff. Parents and any other person on campus without the administration's knowledge will be considered as trespassers and may be subject to arrest.

We also expect parents to be polite and civil in their dealings with all school staff. We do not permit or tolerate abusive, disrespectful, threatening, lewd, profane, or offensive language from your children at school, and we will not tolerate it from parents. Parents who create a disruption at school or behave unacceptably may be prohibited from coming onto school property without specific authority and will be treated as criminal trespassers if they disregard the dean's or superintendent's directive.

Unless we have possession of a court document that limits a possessory conservator (that is, the parent who does not ordinarily have custody of the student) access to his/her child while at school, we will permit either parent to eat lunch with their child at

school.

Each visitor to Midland Academy must check in at the front office and receive a Hall Pass Visitor badge.

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Complaint Process

We realize that situations may arise when parents disagree with a decision that affects their child or believe that a policy has been improperly applied to their child. A number of these types of disputes or controversies have specific processes for pursuing those concerns.

In general, all parent complaints should be brought initially to the teacher involved or the campus administration within 15 business days of the events or situation that you are concerned about. Often the problem can be resolved through an informal conference with the teacher or administration. On those occasions when a conference does not take care of a problem, you should request a copy of the complaint policy and complaint form from the dean's office. In order for your concern to be resolved at the earliest possible level, you must put your complaint in writing on the form provided before meeting formally with administration.

Administration will schedule a conference with you and give you a written response within ten business days after the conference. If administration is not able to take care of the problem, you can make a written request for the board of trustees to consider the matter at a future meeting. You must, however, follow our established policies and use our forms.

Individual trustees cannot respond to parent complaints beyond referring the matter to the administration. Furthermore, the board of trustees will not permit complaints to be heard in the public comment or open forum portion of board meetings. In order for the board to take any action on a complaint, you must follow the complaint process established in policy.

Student Health Concerns

We adopt and enforce policies to ensure that our campuses comply with Texas Department of Agriculture guidelines for restricting student access to vending machines containing foods of minimal nutritional value. Generally, this means that soft drinks and other foods of minimal nutritional value will not be available to elementary students during the school day or to secondary students during any designated meal periods.

As required by state law, we have and enforce prohibitions against student possession and use of tobacco, tobacco products, or electronic cigarettes on campuses or a school-sponsored or school-related activities. These prohibitions are addressed in the Student Code of Conduct and the employee handbook.

The district's student health advisory council meets at least four times during each school year.

In collaboration with you and, if possible, your child's physician, we will develop an individualized health plan for children with diabetes who need care for diabetes while in school or participating in a school activity. If your child has diabetes and will need care

at school or while participating in a school activity, you must submit the diabetes management and treatment plan prepared by you and your child's physician before or

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at the beginning of the school year, on enrollment after the beginning of the school year, or as soon as practicable following a diagnosis of diabetes.

Students with a diagnosed food allergy that places them at risk for anaphylaxis (sudden onset, whole body reaction to an allergen that can involve closing of airways, hives, swelling, irregular heartbeat, wheezing, and other symptoms) shall be cared for in accordance with guidelines developed by the commissioner of state health services in consultation with an appointed ad hoc committee.

Student Illness or Injury at School

We will promptly attempt to notify you or a person you have authorized us to notify if we have knowledge that your child has been injured at school or has become ill at school. We have a school nurse available and a secluded area where your child can stay if she or he is injured or becomes ill.

Although we want your child to attend school every day, we do not want your child at school if she or he has a communicable disease or is running a fever of 100° or more. Under State and local Health Department regulations, if your child has certain medical conditions, she or he must be excluded from school for a period of time. The school nurse can provide you a complete list of those conditions and periods of exclusion.

Administering Medicine at School

Often, students have to take prescription medication for a certain period of time as treatment for a medical condition. If at all possible, we ask that you schedule the timing of the doses so that the child takes the medicine at home. If children have to take medicine at school, you must make a written request to the nurse. The school nurse or other authorized school employee will administer medications only from a container that appears to be the properly labeled original prescription container or from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by the nurse from a properly labeled original prescription container. Only the nurse or other authorized school employees are permitted to administer prescription medicines at school. Other than prescription asthma medicine or anaphylaxis treatment for students with severe allergies that may result in anaphylaxis, we do not permit students to carry their own medications and self-administer.

Children with asthma or children with severe allergies that may result in anaphylaxis will be allowed to carry and self-administer their prescription asthma or anaphylaxis medicine under certain conditions. The student must have demonstrated to his or her doctor and to the school nurse that the child has the skills necessary to self-administer the asthma or anaphylaxis medicine. Additionally you must provide us a written authorization for self-administration and a written statement from child's doctor that the student has asthma and is capable of self-administration and that includes the name and purpose of the medicine, the prescribed dosage, the times and circumstances for

administration, and the period for which the medicine is prescribed.

The nurse or authorized personnel may administer commonly used over-the-counter treatments, such as antacids, aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, antibiotic ointments,

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when provided by the parents. The nurse or authorized personnel will administer these medications according to the labeled instructions if you make a written request to the nurse, providing the same basic information as is required for administering prescription drugs.

If your child has unique medical conditions or any other condition that requires virtually immediate administration of medications under specified conditions, please contact the principal, who will schedule a meeting of appropriate personnel to ensure that your child's needs are met.

If your child has a food allergy or a severe food allergy that, in your judgment, would require immediate medical attention if the student were exposed to the allergen, we will ask you to disclose that information, including the food to which the child is allergic and the nature of the allergic reaction, at enrollment so that we may take necessary precautions for the child's safety. The information provided is confidential and will be disclosed only to those employees who need the information in order to appropriately care for your child.

Lost, Damaged, or Stolen Personal Items

We ask that you discourage your child from wearing or bringing to school expensive or irreplaceable jewelry, watches, sunglasses, or personal clothing that may be removed during the days, such as winter coats. Students are responsible for all their personal possessions while at school or any school-sponsored or school-related event. **It is important that you understand the school district is not responsible for any personal items that are lost, damaged, or stolen at school or a school-related activity.**

Midland Academy maintains a "Lost and Found" in the administrative offices; clothing and other items that are turned in as "lost" and not claimed by the end of the school year will be donated to a local charity.

Telephone Use

School telephones are for school business use. Students will be permitted to use school telephones only for emergencies and only with permission. If you call for your child during the school day, we will take a message and deliver it to the student at the end of the class period or other time that will least interfere with instruction. Unauthorized use of a cellular phone or other electronic communication device during the school day will result in the item being confiscated. There is a **\$15.00, \$20.00, or \$30.00** cash administrative fee to release a confiscated cell phone or electronic device to a parent.

Parent Organizations/Volunteer Opportunities

Midland Academy has an active Parent-Teacher Organization, and we encourage you to

actively participate in this group.

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We encourage parents to volunteer in our school. All volunteers must complete an application form, and the district will obtain a Criminal History Report on all applicants for volunteer programs.

Transportation Program

Midland Academy does not provide transportation on school buses to and from school. We do provide transportation for field trips. When riding in a Midland Academy van, students are expected to follow all directives and safety rules.

Authorized Fees

Although the basic cost of your child's public education is provided through state funding and some federal funds, we may assess fees for certain kinds of materials and services, as described in the following list:

- a fee to cover the cost of materials when the student makes, builds, or prepares some product that becomes the student's personal property.
- dues for voluntary student organizations and clubs and admission fees to voluntary extracurricular activities.
- security deposits for materials, supplies, or materials that must be returned to the district.
- fees for items of personal use or products a student chooses to purchase, such as student publications.

You may request a waiver of any required fee that you are unable to pay by contacting the principal who will determine ability to pay based on the criteria for identifying students who are eligible for participation in the free and reduced-price school lunch program.

Food Service/Free and Reduced-Price Food Program

We serve a variety of nutritious food for students and faculty members at a nominal cost. We do not allow foods of minimal nutritional value, as defined by the federal Child Nutrition program, to be served or available for purchase in food service and eating areas during the time students are being served meals.

Students must follow directions for entering the cafeteria and observe good table manners and courteous behavior at all times, i.e., no cutting in line. Loud talking, and unnecessary noise are considered poor manners and may result in disciplinary action. We provide breakfast and lunch to all students at no charge. Breakfast is served starting at 7:40 a.m. Our school participates in the federal Child Nutrition Programs, which

provide free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs to students based on family income levels. We maintain strict confidentiality as to whether students participate in the program. If you would like more information about the program or an application, please contact the Director of Food Services.

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Meal Prices

Adult Breakfast - \$2.50 Adult Lunch - \$4.00 Extra Entree - Prices vary Extra Milk - \$0.50 Cookies & Chips- \$1.00 Visiting Child Lunch - \$3.10

Midland Academy students may charge up to \$10.00 for extras (example: extra milk or additional entree). Once a student reaches or exceeds \$10.00 in charges, they will no longer be allowed to charge. Parents will be required to pay all charges.

Once a student account is overdrawn, parents will be notified by phone and receive a letter informing them of the charges. Collection of charges will continue until paid even if the student is no longer enrolled.

Parents may pay for meals in advance in the cafeteria or by going to www.myschoolbucks.com to pay electronically.

APPENDIX

These items are available at www.macharter.org

Parent Engagement Policy and Title I Home-School Compact

My School Bucks Information

Student Pick up/Drop off Information

2023-2024 School Calendar

School Safety Transfers from a Persistently Dangerous School

Parent Engagement Policy and Title I Home-School Compact

Student Welfare/ Freedom from Bullying Policy
Student Welfare/Freedom from Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation
Technology Resources Policy
Student and Parent Complaints/Grievances Policy
Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students
Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
Wellness and Health Services Care Plans