



The  
GREAT  
Academy

**Student  
Handbook  
2015-2016**

# **The GREAT Academy Student Handbook**

**The GREAT Academy  
6001-A San Mateo Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109**

**505-792-0306 phone  
505-792-0225 fax**

**[www.thegreatacademy.org](http://www.thegreatacademy.org)**

**The GREAT Academy is a State Chartered FREE Public Charter School**

## **Mission Statement**

The GREAT Academy's mission is to ensure that every student gains real world experience through active transition.

.....  
TGA adheres to all Title IX requirements that state that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance.

*-Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964*

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## **SECTION 1 – PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK**

### **1.1 Purpose of the Handbook**

The purpose of this handbook is to assist students, parents/guardians, teachers, staff and school administrators in understanding that a safe, respectful and orderly school community exists to help all students develop their full potential for learning and acquire the necessary self-discipline to enable them to become productive and responsible members of society.

### **1.2 Responsibility for Environment**

The quality of the school community, both socially and academically, depends significantly on the choices made by the student population. Upon entering a school, students assume part of the responsibility for creating a safe, stimulating academic and social environment in which everyone is free to grow and learn. Maintaining a safe school climate free of disruptions enables all participants to learn and grow.

### **1.3 Expected Student Behaviors**

Certain student behaviors and attitudes foster a desirable and healthy learning environment at the GREAT Academy. Among these are the following:

- A. Accepting people of different abilities and backgrounds (political, social, ethnic, economic and religious) and learning to communicate and work together despite these differences.
- B. Participating in both academic and non-academic activities.
- C. Sharing abilities, time and skills to further one's own goals and to help others succeed.
- D. Attending classes and activities promptly and regularly as mandated by the State of New Mexico's Compulsory Attendance Law.
- E. Adhering to school rules and making positive contributions to the academic and social climate.
- F. Being responsible and accountable for one's own actions.

In addition to compliance with regulations established by this handbook, students are expected to obey all rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Education, policies and procedures in school handbook and to obey any order given by a member of the faculty or staff relating to school activities.

A student shall be defined as any person who is enrolled in an educational program provided by or approved by the school and carried on in premises owned or controlled by the school.

### **1.4 Disruptive Behaviors**

A. Certain student behaviors disrupt the educational process. It is the purpose of this document to provide an overview of unacceptable behavior and the consequences. This overview is not all-inclusive; acts of misconduct not specified herein shall also be subject to disciplinary action by appropriate school personnel.

B. The Executive Director of the school has the responsibility to take disciplinary action anytime the educational process is disrupted or threatened with disruption. Nothing in the following is intended to prevent a staff member, teacher, or other administrator from using his/her professional judgment with respect to a particular situation.

## SECTION 2 – USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE GREAT ACADEMY

**TGA Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am – 5:00pm**

### **2.1 Attendance**

The GREAT Academy operates on a four (4) day school week, Monday through Thursday. Students are required to attend school on a daily basis. TGA requests that medical/dental or other appointments be made on Fridays. Students that are absent Monday through Thursday are required to attend Friday school to make up the missed time as not to fall behind in their coursework. Students will not be granted permission to go home unless it is an emergency. If a student becomes ill during the day, the student is required to convey their condition to a staff member. If it is determined by school staff that the student needs to be picked up by a parent, a staff member will contact the parent/guardian to inform him/her of this need. If an absence is unavoidable, working 4 hours in Edgenuity from home with minimal idle time and activities completed. This will keep you from falling behind and will render your absence excused rather than unexcused.

### **Regarding Pregnant/Parenting Students**

TGA will provide at least ten days of excused absences for a student who provides documentation of the birth of the student's child and allows the student a time period to make up the work that the student missed that equals the number of days the student was absent for the birth of a child. TGA will provide excused absences for any additional days missed by a pregnant or parenting student for which a longer period of absence is deemed medically necessary by the student's physician and allows the student a time period to make up the work that the student missed that equals the number of days the student was absent. TGA will provide four days per semester of excused absences, in addition to the number of allowed absences all students, for a student who provides appropriate documentation of pregnancy or that the student is the parent of a child under the age of thirteen needing care and allows the student a time period to make up the work that the student missed that equals the number of days the student was absent. TGA requires that the pregnant or parenting student is responsible for communicating the student's pregnancy and parenting status to the appropriate school personnel if the student chooses to disclose the information. Finally, TGA will provide a copy of the pregnant and parenting student absence policies to all students in middle, high school.

### **2.2 Reporting Absences and/or tardy**

If a student will be absent, parent/guardian is required to call the school **before 9 AM** each day of absence. Do not call or email teachers to report absences. To report an absence, please call 792-0306 option 4 to leave a voice mail message about the absence or choose option 9 to leave a live message with the front desk attendant.

## TGA YEAR AT-A-GLANCE 2015-2016

July 27-Aug 7	TGA Teacher In-Service
August 10	First day for students
August 24-27	Short Cycle Assessments (Discovery Education)
September 7	Labor Day Holiday - No School
October 9	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Grading Period
October 16	Report Cards issued
November 11	Veteran's Day Holiday – No School
November 25 - 27	Thanksgiving Holiday – No School
December 7-10	Short Cycle Assessments (Discovery Education)
December 18	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Grading Period/End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester
December 21-Jan 1	Winter Break – No School/Office closed
January 4	Second Semester begins
January 8	Report Cards issued
January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – No School
February 15	President's Day Holiday – No School
March 4	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter Grading Period
March 7-11	Short Cycle Assessments (Discovery Education)
March 11	Report Cards Issued
March 23-25	Vernal Holiday (Spring Break)
April 1- May 13	NM Standardized Testing (PARCC) *Do not schedule any appointments during this time period
May 19	Last Day for Students/End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Grading Period
May 26	Report Cards Issued

### 2.3 Transportation

Students must provide their own transportation to TGA.

Students using city transportation that are in need of assistance with bus fare should contact TGA administration to discuss assistance options.

Students that drive themselves to campus who are late for more than 4 consecutive days or are late for more than 6 days per month, without verifiable, extraordinary circumstances will not be allowed to drive onto campus for school until such time as they can prove they can arrive to school on time.

### 2.4 Teachers/Case Managers

Each TGA student is assigned a teacher/case manager to monitor student progress and communicate with parents.

### 2.5 Course Structure and Progress

Many of the core courses offered by TGA are two semester courses. The courses are broken into semesters and are intended to be completed within that time period. **Students may work more quickly, but must maintain the minimum established pace as indicated by the school**

**calendar and meet a minimum mastery level (NO Ds or Fs).** Students are required to maintain no lower than a C in all classes. Students may be given a goal plan by their case managers to assist them in completing classes in a timely manner. If a student refuses to follow the prescribed plan, behavioral corrective measures will be taken.

### **2.6 Probation**

All students entering TGA, both new and returning will be on an academic probationary status until October 15<sup>th</sup>. All students will be placed on an action plan to meet individual academic needs, but students who do not maintain regular attendance, sufficient pace and a mastery grade of no lower than a C will be placed on an intensive action plan. Weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings will be held for each student to monitor progress and determine interventions that may be needed. For students that are not maintaining expected academic standards, a conference will be held after the action plan has been in place for three weeks to determine if an alternate placement is needed.

### **2.7 Final Exams**

The GREAT Academy's policy regarding cumulative (mid-term and final) exams is very strict. All final exams must be taken at the GREAT Academy's computer lab, where they will be proctored by TGA staff. The student must inform his/her teacher/case manager when ready to take a final exam. If the student takes the exam anywhere other than TGA, the grade will be expunged and the student will be required to take the exam over in the presence of TGA staff.

### **2.8 Standardized Testing**

All TGA students are required to participate in all standardized testing as required by the New Mexico Public Education Department. This includes all short cycle assessments. Parents are to make every effort to ensure that students are in attendance during all testing.

*Participation in these tests is a required as a condition of enrollment at TGA.*

### **2.9 Grade Classification Policy**

A student's grade classification is determined by the number of high school credits earned. Minimum credit for the following grade classification at TGA is as follows:

Freshman (Grade 9)	0 – 7.99 credits
Sophomore (Grade 10)	8 – 15.99 credits
Junior (Grade 11)	16 – 24.99 credits
Senior (Grade 12)	25 – 28 credits
(28 credits are required to graduate from TGA)	

Previous high school transcripts will be evaluated to determine courses required for graduation with TGA.

### **2.10 Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Grades in all classes will be calculated on a 4.0 scale. There are no weighted grades for courses offered at TGA. In order to qualify for the NM State Lottery Scholarship students must attain 2.5 GPA.



## **2.11 Graduation Requirements at TGA**

The GREAT Academy requires the student to accumulate a minimum of 28 credits that include all state required courses in addition to TGA required courses to earn a diploma. Each student's individual "Next Step Plan" is developed with the student and TGA staff each year. The required courses are listed below.

### **English – 4.0 credits**

- English 9 (1 credit)
- English 10 (1 credit)
- English 11 (1 credit)
- English 12 (1 credit)

### **Social Studies – 3.5 credits**

Students must have 0.5 credit of New Mexico History and 3 credits from the following: World History, American History, Geography, Government and Economics.

### **Mathematics – 4.0 credits**

This must include a math credit for Algebra 2 or an equivalent.

### **Science – 3.0 credits**

Must include at least two of the following laboratory sciences:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Environmental Science
- Physical Science

### **Other Required Courses**

- Health (.5 credit)
- Physical Education (1 credit)
- Leadership (1 credit)
- Communication (1 credit)
- Dual Credit (2 credits)
- Service Learning (1 credit)
- Career Cluster (1 credit)
- Smart Labs

## **2.12 Withdrawal from The GREAT Academy**

Students who intend to withdraw from The GREAT Academy must do so formally. If the student is under the age of 18, a parent/legal guardian must complete the withdrawal process with the Registrar.

### **2.13 Requesting Educational Records/Transcripts**

When requesting transcripts or other educational records, please allow our office staff 24 hours to have them copied and prepared to give to you. You can call 505-792-0306 to make these requests with the Registrar.

### **2.14 Visitors and Closed Campus**

TGA is a closed campus. Once students enter the building for the school day, they are not permitted to leave campus unless checked out by a parent, guardian or other approved adult noted on the registration documents. This policy includes any day school students who remain after day school hours to work on their Edgenuity classes. All visitors to campus must check in and receive a visitor's pass at the front desk. Visitors are to wait in the waiting area. The Receptionist will contact the appropriate staff member or student who will meet the visitor in the waiting area and escort him/her to the approved destination.

### **2.15 Logon Policy**

Students must maintain a minimum performance standard and maintain an identified pace. The online curriculum provides teachers/case managers, parents and students with consistent and current updates of student performance. **All student activity is recorded.** This includes: log in and log out time, idle time, lessons completed, time spent on assignments, grades and information about work completed and current status in each course. This also includes any and all outside websites that are visited by a student. Students have a beginning and ending date for each course which requires them to prepare a weekly work schedule to keep pace with the semester timeline.

### **2.16 Student Network Account**

Students must know the following before using their network accounts:

- You may only be logged into one machine at a time.
- DO NOT share your username or password with anyone for any reason.
- You are responsible for ALL activity while your account is logged in. If you walk away from your computer while logged in, you are still responsible.
- Read the Discipline Code – if you use or plan to use technology to do harm, you risk losing your technology privileges, access to your courses, as well as being suspended or expelled from school.
- All activities on our school network are monitored and recorded.

TGA computers and equipment may only be used for educational activities.

### **2.17 Electronic Devices**

The use of MP3 players, iPods, cell phones, and other electronic devices are NOT permitted during any instructional time (lab or classroom time). Please make sure to turn off all electronic devices and leave them in your bag. TGA will not be responsible for loss or damage of any personal electronic device. Should a student be found to be in violation of this policy three times, they will be required to check their devices in at the front desk each day. They will be able to retrieve their electronics at the end of the school day.

## SECTION 3 – WHEN THIS STUDENT HANDBOOK IS IN FORCE

### 3.1 Policies in Force

The provisions of the Student Behavior Handbook are in force:

- A. During regular school hours.
- B. During transportation of students.
- C. During times and places where school administrators and/or staff have jurisdiction including, but not limited to, school sponsored events and activities such as dances, field trips, athletic functions and other school related activities.
- D. During times and places that affect the school order.
- E. During visits to another school.

### 3.2 Off-Campus Conduct

A student may be disciplined for off-campus conduct if school authorities can show that the student's actions:

- A. Began on campus.
- B. Have a direct and immediate effect either on school discipline or on the general safety and welfare of students and staff or;
- C. Interferes with the educational process.

## SECTION 4 – EXPECTATIONS

### Choose a Learning Attitude:

- There is always something we can learn and we appreciate GREATness in search of a new opportunity to learn.
- Everyone makes mistakes! We can all learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others.
- Someone is learning from watching YOU right now.

### Choose Trustworthiness:

- Do the right thing especially if you think no one is watching.
- Be strong inside, where it really counts.
- Be worthy of others' trust so they can depend on you.

### Choose to be Respectful:

- We all have the right to learn.
- We have the right to be treated with dignity.
- Use self-control to respect the rights of your teacher to teach and of your classmates to learn.
- Respect yourself and your fellow human beings.
- Respect the learning community and the tools utilized for learning.

**Choose to be Responsible:**

- Be prepared. Be “PRESENT.” Just Do It!
- Do the things you are responsible to do.
- Take care of your “stuff.”
- Take ownership of your behaviors and learning.

**Choose to be Fair:**

- Make fair decisions. Think fair. Be fair.
- Listen to others and try to understand how they are feeling.
- Treat people as equals.

**Choose to be Caring:**

- Be kind, generous, and show compassion for others.
- Live by the Golden Rule, treating others the way you want to be treated.
- Think before you act – RESPOND not REACT.

**Choose to be a good Citizen:**

- Become GREAT by serving others.
- Do your share to make our school the best it can be and respect the expectations.
- Protect our environment.
- Respect your role as a global citizen.
- Show pride in our learning community.

**Believe & Dream:**

- Keep going when the going gets tough.
- Believe in yourself and dream about the possibilities.
- Believe you CAN be a GREAT person!

## SECTION 5 – RULES OF CONDUCT

A primary responsibility of the New Mexico public schools and their professional staff is to instill in students an appreciation of our representative form of government, the rights and responsibilities of the individual and the legal processes whereby necessary changes are affected.

The school is a community and the rules and regulations of a school are the laws of that community. All persons enjoying the rights of citizenship are subject to the laws of their community. Each right carries with it a corresponding responsibility.

The right to attend public school is not absolute. It is conditioned on each student's acceptance of the obligation to abide by the lawful rules as established by the schools and community.

Teachers are required by law to maintain a safe, suitable environment for learning in their classrooms and to assist in maintaining school order and discipline. Administrators are responsible for maintaining and facilitating the educational program by ensuring an orderly and safe environment in the public schools. In discharging their duties, all school employees have the right to be free from intimidation or abuse and to have their lawful requests and instructions followed by students and supported by parents/guardians. Verbal or physical assault on a school employee or aggressive behavior toward a school employee will not be tolerated and will be dealt with legally and/or through the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures.

## SECTION 6 – TERMINOLOGY USED IN THIS HANDBOOK

- A. **Administrative Authority** – the Executive Director or his/her designee.
- B. **Co-Curricular Activities** – activities that are required as part of the curriculum
- C. **Extra-Curricular Activities** – activities that are not required as part of the curriculum, but are sanctioned and sponsored by the school and that take place outside of school, outside of town or after regular school hours.
- D. **Hearing Officer** – an independent, third party designated to hear evidence and determine the merits of a case at a Hearing.
- E. **Parent/Guardian** – includes a natural parent, legal guardian or person having lawful decision-making power for the student.
- F. **School Personnel** – all members of the staff, faculty and administration employed by the GREAT Academy.

## SECTION 7 – STUDENT UNIFORM POLICY

### 7.1 Student Uniforms

#### Rationale

The school uniform policy promotes school culture, safety, improves discipline and enhances the learning environment. The GREAT Academy is a business school model and strives to teach students that there is a time and a place for everything. For students, school is business and should be treated with an appropriate degree of professionalism, which is exuded through the school uniform. The potential benefits of school uniforms include, but are not limited to the following:

- Preparing students how to dress professionally for the work force and career beyond high-school.
- Instilling students with self-discipline and attention to detail.
- Decreasing violence and theft – even life-threatening situations – among students over designer clothing or expensive sneakers.
- Helping to prevent anyone with gang affiliation from wearing colors and insignia at school.
- Helping parents and students resist peer pressure.
- Helping students concentrate on their school work.
- Helping school officials recognize intruders who come into the school.

**School shirts will be loaned to each student. Other uniform items can be purchased separately at any department store.**

**All attire will be of a professional nature and be pressed, clean and in good repair at all times. The following list is not all-inclusive and sound judgment by the staff will be used at all times to ensure all students present a professional image.**

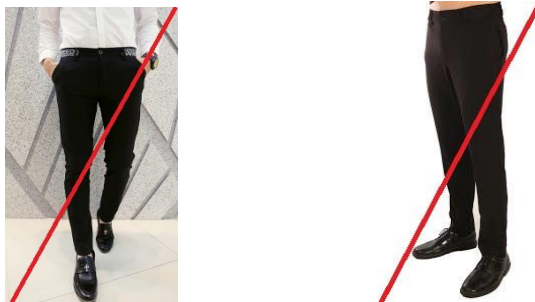
**NO OVERSIZED CLOTHING WILL BE ALLOWED AT ANY TIME!**

**NO UNIFORM ITEMS SHOULD BE EXCESSIVELY TIGHT!**

- **SHIRTS** – The GREAT Academy standard issue shirt will be worn at all times. Shirts must be tucked into pants. Shirts must be free of excessive wrinkling. Undershirts must be worn under the white dress shirt at all times. Female undergarments should not be visible through the white dress shirt under any circumstances. The undershirt may be crew or V-neck design. While wearing the white dress shirt, the undershirt will always be white. No logos should be visible through the white dress shirt from the undershirt. If an undershirt is worn while wearing the red polo, it will be white, black or red. **Sixth graders vs. HS??**

- PANTS** – Black dress slacks must be worn with a black belt at the waist and belts must be through the loops of the pants. The slacks can be with or without pleats. Pants are to be made of a **dress pant fabric** (usually a blend of cotton and polyester). Pants will be full length and at least to the ankle and NOT the calf. **Dockers, chinos and Dickies are not considered dress pants.** Men’s pants must have belt loops and a belt is to be worn. Women’s pants do not necessarily need to have belt loops as long as they meet all other criteria. If the women’s pants do not have belt loops, a belt is not required. Any pants made with stretchy fabric similar to a leggings or yoga pants are not allowed. Pants are to have a standard waistline. High-waisted pants are not allowed. Female slacks must have at least a small flare at the legs. Absolutely **NO** cargo pants, jeans, sweat suit pants, yoga pants, skinny cut slacks, leggings or pajamas. **NO** shorts of any type.

The following are examples of appropriate men and women’s dress pants. If the attire worn is not very similar to these, they are not within the dress code. **Please note the cut of the women’s pants legs!**





For days when students wear the TGA T-Shirt with jeans, (Fridays and for Service Learning events) the jeans will only be blue or black in color. The jeans will not be oversized or sag in any way. If an administrator determines that jeans are too tight, the student will not be allowed to wear those jeans at any time in a school environment. The following are appropriate jeans for wear with the TGA T-shirt or Free Dress days:



- **BELTS** – Belts must be worn with pants that have belt loops. All belts will be black and leather. They must not have any design either on the belt or on the buckle.
- **SKIRTS** – Skirts must be black and not of the high-waisted fashion. Asymmetrical hem lines are not allowed. Skirts must be able to be tucked. Skirts must be **knee level (finger-tip length is not acceptable)** or longer and must not be extremely tight. Skirt splits must not be more than 3 inches long. Absolutely **NO** mini-skirts.

The following are examples of appropriate ladies skirts. If a student is wearing a skirt that is not very similar to this example; they are not within the dress code.





- **OUTERWEAR** – If conditions dictate, TGA sweaters and jackets are the only cold weather clothing allowed to be worn inside the building. **NO** pullovers, hoodies, sweatshirts of any kind will be worn. **NO** other outerwear is to be worn in the building. During inclement weather coats will be taken off after entering the building before leaving the front desk area. TGA jackets will not be worn during the months of June, July, August, and May.
- **SHOES** – Shoes must be plain, black and of a dressy nature. White soles or soft, slipper like soles are prohibited. Any shoe that looks like a slipper or moccasin will not be allowed. If the shoe has laces, they must be black. Shoes must fit securely on the foot. Shoes with open toes or backless shoes (including flip flops, sandals, mules and slides) will not be allowed. Shoes may slip on or be laced. Girls will not wear heels more than 2” high.

The following are examples of the type of shoes that are within the dress code. If the shoes worn by a student are not very similar; they are not within the dress code.



- **SOCKS** – For males, socks will be **black dress** socks that reach half-way up the calf. For females, smaller black socks are permitted depending on the type of shoe, but will always be of a professional nature.

- **JEWELRY** – Girls (only) may wear conservative earrings that are considered appropriate in a professional setting. Male students will not be allowed to wear earrings or gauges of any kind. **NO** facial piercings or tongue piercings will be allowed. **This includes small nose studs!** Watches in black, silver or gold tones may be worn.
- **HAIR** – Hair may not be worn in spiked or unnatural styles or colors. Hair is defined as unnatural if a teen-age human being is not able to grow that color or shade of hair. Hair styles must exude the professionalism that the uniform policy seeks to impart. Any hair accessories must be red, black or white and be small and conservative in nature. No headbands will be worn across the forehead.
- **HATS** – No caps or hats of any sort are to be worn while on campus unless weather dictates cold weather hats outside the building.
- **ACCESSORIES** - If tights or hose are worn under a skirt, they must be plain, without pattern or design. All hair accessories must be red, black or white and minimal in nature. **No colored wrist bands, neck beads, head bands, bandanas or doo rags are allowed.** Any staff member has a right to stop any pattern, for example groups wearing identical chains, bracelets, etc. or anything that may be mistaken for gang affiliation.

### **Free Dress Incentive Dress Code**

Student dress for free dress days are only allowed for meeting specified academic goals or during fund raising events. Students will be specifically instructed if they are allowed to free dress. **For free dress days, students are still required to dress in a manner appropriate for a professional setting.** This would be the equivalent of a relaxed dress day in a professional setting.

**Unacceptable** clothing and accessories include, but are **not limited to:**

- Skinny jeans, leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, etc. (see examples above)
- Gang related attire
- Tank tops of any kind
- Halter and shoulder-less tops
- Shorts of any kind
- Sports jerseys
- Excessively tight or revealing clothing
- Clothing that exposes the stomach or midriff
- Low-cut blouses
- Excessive or non-professional earrings
- Facial piercings of any sort
- Spiked jewelry
- Spiked or unnatural hair styles or colors
- Slippers and/or pajamas
- Chains
- Any clothing or accessories promoting:
  - Drugs
  - Sexual activity

- Violence
- Disrespect or bigotry toward any group

## **7.2 Enforcement**

The school will strive to achieve full compliance through the use of positive reinforcement measures, and will resort to disciplinary action only when positive measures and supports fail to assure compliance. Students will be required to wear the school uniform at internship and service learning sites unless an alternate uniform is required (scrubs, smocks, etc.).

No student will be considered non-compliant with the uniform policy in the following instances:

- When the student's parent or guardian has secured an exemption from the school policy for religious considerations. A student may wear religious attire.
- When a student is participating in an activity that may require specialized clothing, appropriate attire is required.

### **Dress Code Non - Compliance Consequences**

- **FIRST OCCURRENCE** – It will be explained to the student how they are not in compliance with the dress code and what specifically they need to do to correct it.
- **SECOND OCCURRENCE** – Student will be given a spare standard issue shirt or the Parent/Guardian will bring appropriate articles of clothing to school and the student will receive detention for that day and demerits may start to accumulate.
- **THIRD OCCURRENCE** – Parent or Guardian will bring in appropriate clothing to school and student will receive one week of detention. Demerits can continue to accumulate.
- **FOURTH OCCURRENCE** – Parents will be contacted and asked to sign a dress code compliance contract. Student will receive two weeks detention. Demerits will continue to accumulate.
- **Any further occurrences of dress code violations will be considered defiance and continued attendance at The GREAT Academy will be in jeopardy.**

## SECTION 8 – RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 8.1 Student Rights

All students have the right to a safe, caring and drug-free school setting that is orderly, educationally efficient and free from disruption during normal teaching/learning functions.

### 8.2 Educational Opportunity

- A. Every student has the right to an education relevant to his/her needs and abilities as well as the responsibility not to deny this right to any other student.
- B. It is the express policy and purpose of The GREAT Academy to provide educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, gender, ethnicity, national origin, familial status, gender identity, religion, age, mental or physical disability, veteran status or any other protected status, in conformity with the laws of the United States and the State of New Mexico.
- C. Students are protected in the exercise of their constitutional rights of free speech, press and assembly. The exercise of such rights, however, must be conducted in a manner that does not disrupt the educational process.

### 8.3 Privacy

- A. Arrest: In the event a law enforcement agency deems it necessary to arrest a student during school hours, it is the responsibility of the administration to see that the incident is conducted in the privacy of an administrator's office. The administrator must document the time, date and name of the student to be taken into custody, the name of the officer, including rank and badge number and the agency of the arresting officer who appears at the administrator's office. The administrator will then contact the nearest office of the arresting agency and verify with a supervisory officer the arresting officer's identity, the fact that a warrant has been issued and the necessity for an arrest at school. The administrator shall obtain a copy of the arrest warrant if available and document the contact with the supervisory officer and the justification for the arrest. Finally, the administrator shall document the phone number, time and date of attempts made and/or the contact of parents/guardians to advise them that an arrest warrant is being served at school. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the superintendent will be notified that the child will be released to the arresting official identified above. All of this must occur before the administrator escorts the student from class and/or releases the student.
- B. Probation Officers: If a violation occurs during a student's probation, the student will be released to the probation officer after the above-stated procedure has been followed.
- C. Investigation of child abuse and neglect: A law enforcement officer and/or a New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department representative may come to or be called to a school to investigate (1) suspected child abuse; (2) a belief that a child is suffering from illness or injury; (3) a report of child abandonment; (4) a

report of a runaway; or (5) a report that the child is endangered by his/her surroundings. Before any individual interviews a student, the procedure described in 5.4.A regarding positive identification of the officer or social worker shall be followed with the exception of notice to the parent/guardian. Should the officer or social worker determine that the child should be placed in protective custody, the officer or social worker will notify the parent/guardian. A copy of the agency's paperwork, officer or social worker identification and court documents shall be provided to the school administrator as soon as available.

- D. Questioning a Student: If law enforcement authorities have the need to question a student on school premises, an administrator shall attempt to contact the parents/guardians. The student will be advised of his/her legal rights in the presence of the administrator. Every attempt will be made to contact the parents/guardians and they shall be permitted to be present during questioning. In the event the parents/guardians cannot be contacted or they refuse to allow questioning, questioning shall not be allowed at school. Only a law enforcement officer can serve a subpoena or summons on any school premises.
- E. Desks, cubbies, bags and other school facilities may be searched with or without students present. When students are not present for searches, another authorized person shall serve as a witness whenever possible.
- F. Search of a person or vehicle: Searches of a student's person or vehicle parked on school property may be conducted if school personnel have a reasonable suspicion that a crime or breach of disciplinary code is being committed by the student. The GREAT Academy may employ a certified agency to search for controlled substances in the school through the use of trained dogs. If a trained dog indicates that a student or his/her possessions have an odor of a controlled substance, school authorities shall conduct a discreet search of the student and his/her possessions. A student will be referred immediately to a law enforcement authority should a controlled substance be found. A reasonable effort will be made to contact parents/guardians.
- G. Only an administrator will conduct physical searches of a student's person and searches may only be conducted in the presence of another authorized person of the same gender as the individual being searched. The only exception will be when circumstances render it impossible to have another authorized person present.

#### **8.4 Due Process Hearing Procedures**

The GREAT Academy Board of Directors will review, make changes to and ultimately adopt the procedures such as the following for creating a Hearing Officer to serve as a neutral third party to hear both sides of a severe disciplinary action.

A student who has been validly expelled or suspended from The GREAT Academy is not entitled to receive any educational services from The GREAT Academy during the period of exclusion from school. Expelled or suspended students are also restricted from coming onto all school

grounds. The GREAT Academy Board of Directors may provide alternative arrangements if they deem such arrangements necessary.

When the administration is seeking long-term suspension or expulsion of a student, the following procedure will be followed:

- A. A written notice shall be addressed to the student, through his/her parents/guardians and shall be served upon the parents/guardians personally or by mail.
- B. The written notice will contain the following information:
  - 1. The charges against the student.
  - 2. The date, time and place of the Hearing and a statement that the student and parent/guardian are entitled and urged to be present.
  - 3. A statement that the Hearing will take place as scheduled, unless the Hearing Officer or Executive Director grants a delay or the student and parent/guardian agree to waive the Hearing and comply voluntarily with the decision of the Hearing Officer. Failure to appear will not delay the hearing and may lead to the imposition of the proposed consequence by default.
  - 4. A statement that the student has the right to be represented at the Hearing by legal counsel. This notice of representation must be filed by a parent/guardian or some other representative designated, in writing, with the Executive Director at least 72 hours before the Hearing.
  - 5. A description of the procedures governing the Hearing.
- C. The hearing shall be scheduled no sooner than five school days nor later than ten school days from the date of receipt of the notice by parents/guardians.
- D. The Hearing Officer or Executive Director may grant or deny a request to delay the hearing.

### **8.5 Procedure for Hearing and Decision**

- A. The formal Hearing is not a trial; it is an Administrative Hearing designed to ensure a calm, orderly presentation of the facts of a case of alleged student misconduct by the administration and by the parent/guardian and student. The impartial Hearing Officer then determines the sanction or punishment, if warranted.
- B. Technical rules of evidence and procedure do not apply.
- C. The Hearing will be electronically recorded and/or written minutes will be taken.
- D. The school's administration shall have the burden of proof of misconduct.

The Hearing Officer shall open the Hearing with a statement indicating the purpose of the Hearing, the charges and a description of his/her plans for conducting the Hearing.
- E. The school's administration will then present his/her case, including any witnesses or evidence.

- F. The student, parent/guardian and/or counsel will then present their case, including any witnesses or evidence.
- G. Character and/or material witnesses may be brought before the Hearing Officer for testimony. As this is a closed hearing, these individuals shall wait in a waiting area until such a time as the Hearing Officer calls them for their testimony.
- I. The Hearing Officer will then either reach and announce an immediate decision or deliberate and prepare a written decision within five days of the Hearing. The Hearing Officer will also determine the sanction or punishment, if warranted. The Hearing Officer's decision and sanction, if warranted, shall be mailed to the parent/guardian via certified mail.
- J. The Hearing Officer's decisions may be appealed to the Board of Directors; instructions for the appeal shall be provided to the student and parent/guardian at the Hearing.

## **8.6 Disenrollment**

- A. When a student is found to have an invalid enrollment, the student shall be dis-enrolled from school. Invalid enrollment refers to an enrolled student or a conditionally enrolled student who has not met the requirements of law for enrollment in school, either as to age, residence or immunization.
- B. The administrator shall give a Preliminary Notice of Contemplated Action of Disenrollment to the student, through his parent/guardian, stating the reasons for this action. The preliminary notice shall be in writing and mailed to the student not later than ten school days before the Notice of Disenrollment is to be mailed.
- C. The Preliminary Notice of Contemplated Action of Disenrollment shall state that (1) the student has a right to respond, either in writing or in person, to the administrator before the date of the contemplated action of disenrollment and (2) the student may attempt to resolve the matter informally by presenting adequate evidence to the administrator to refute the alleged reasons for the contemplated action of disenrollment.
- D. If the student has not presented satisfactory evidence to remedy the invalid enrollment and has been afforded notice as required above, the administrator shall give written notice to the student, through his parent/guardian, that the student will be dis-enrolled. The Notice of Disenrollment shall be mailed ten school days after the mailing of the Preliminary Notice of Contemplated Action of Disenrollment.
- E. The student may, at any time within the ten school days after the date of mailing of the Notice of Disenrollment, present the administrator with an oral or written request for a Hearing on the matter. If a Hearing request is received, the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures shall be followed.
- F. If no request for a Hearing is received within the time provided, the student shall be dis-enrolled from school and shall be permitted to reenroll only when all requirements for enrollment are met.

## **8.7 Student Responsibilities**

Students have the responsibility to:

- A. Attend classes, daily and on time.
- B. Be prepared for each class with appropriate materials and assignments.
- C. Be properly attired.
- D. Exhibit respect toward others.
- E. Conduct themselves in a responsible manner.
- F. Pay required fees and fines.
- G. Refrain from violations of the Student Handbook.
- H. Obey all GREAT Academy Board policies.
- I. Seek changes in school policies and regulations in an orderly and responsible manner, through appropriate channels.
- J. Cooperate with staff in the investigation of disciplinary cases and volunteer information when the student has knowledge relating to a serious offense.

## **8.8 Parent/Guardian Responsibilities**

Parents/Guardians have the responsibility to:

- A. Make every effort to provide for the physical needs of the child.
- B. Communicate with instructional personnel when their child seems to be struggling academically.
- C. Teach their child to pay attention to those in authority and to obey rules.
- D. See that their child attends school regularly and promptly as mandated by the State of New Mexico's Compulsory Attendance Law.
- E. Report and explain absences and tardiness to the school.
- F. Encourage and lead the child to develop proper study habits at home.
- G. Participate in parent/guardian-teacher conferences to discuss their child's school progress and welfare.
- H. Keep informed of school policies and academic requirements of school programs.
- I. Be sure their child is appropriately dressed at school and school-related activities.
- J. Discuss report cards and school assignments with their child.



- K. Bring to the attention of school authorities any learning problems or condition that may relate to their child's education.
- L. Provide up-to-date home, work and emergency telephone numbers and other pertinent information to the school.
- M. Cooperate with school administrators and teachers.
- N. Be sure their child attends school tutorials when required or as the need arises.
- O. Provide copies of legal documents stating custody and visitation privileges in instances of divorce or separation.
- P. Demonstrate respect toward all school personnel.

### **8.9 Visitors on Campus**

All visitors, including parents/guardians, shall, as required by law, report to the administrative office and secure a visitor's pass upon entering the school building. Any individual found on campus without such a pass will be asked to report to the office and secure one. Refusal to do as requested could lead to law enforcement contact and criminal trespass charges.

## SECTION 9 – DISCIPLINARY CODE

The following consequences are proposed by The GREAT Academy Board of Directors and must be expected for each violation. Each consequence will depend on the severity of the violation and whether the violation is a first offense or a repeated act. The consequences for unacceptable behavior may vary as each administrator selects from a broad spectrum of consequences to include those listed here.

### 9.1 Consequences Include, But Are Not Limited to:

- A. **Staff and Student Conference:** School personnel will meet with the student in person.
- B. **Behavior or Attendance Contract:** Contracts entered into by the student and guardian when habitual misconduct or trancies have been documented by the administration. The breach of a contract may warrant a recommendation for long-term suspension and the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures will apply.
- C. **Staff and Parent/Guardian Conference:** School personnel will communicate with parents/guardians by note, by telephone or in person.
- D. **Administrator and Student Conference:** The administrator will meet with the student in person.
- E. **Administrator and Parent/Guardian Conference:** The site administrator will communicate with the parent/guardian by note, by telephone or in person.
- F. **Administrator, Staff, Student and Parent/Guardian Conference:** All parties involved will participate in a personal conference.
- G. **Attendance Contract:** Student commits in writing to attend classes regularly and on time. The consequences of continued absence are specifically stated in contract.
- H. **Behavior Contract:** Student commits to more positive behavior in the form of a written contract.
- I. **Demerit:** A mark received for misconduct
- J. **Detention:** Retaining a student before or after school or during the lunch recess period.
- K. **In-School Suspension (ISS):** Removal of the student from regular classes and placement with school personnel for supervision.
- L. **Short-Term Suspension:** Removal of a student from classes and all school related activities for a period of time up to ten school days. Students whose presence poses a danger to persons or property are considered to be a disruption to the educational process and may be removed immediately from school or school-sponsored events. Local law enforcement authorities may participate in removal, if necessary.

- M. **Long-Term Suspension:** Removal of a student from school and all school-related activities for more than ten school days and the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures will apply.
- 11-180 school days out of school
  - Required long-term Suspension Hearing within 10 school days of offense.
  - Length of long-term suspension time recommended by school administration, decision by Hearing Officer, appealed to Executive Director.
  - During interim time of offense to hearing date and subsequent decision by Hearing Officer, student may not be in school, on school grounds, or participate in extracurricular/co-curricular activities.
- N. **Expulsion:** A student who has been validly expelled from The GREAT Academy is not entitled to receive any educational services from The GREAT Academy permanently. Expelled or suspended students are also restricted from coming onto school grounds.
- O. **Restitution/Reimbursement:** Payment for items that have been damaged and/or stolen will be sought. This includes damage to the school facilities, bathrooms, lockers, equipment; damage or loss of school textbooks, materials and supplies for which the student and parents/guardians are responsible or damage to personal property of school employees or students or school neighborhood residents. Such matters may be referred to the local law enforcement authorities for further action.
- P. **Trespass Notice:** The individual shall be notified (by law enforcement authorities) that he/she has been denied access to all school properties.
- Q. **Referral for Legal Action:** Evidence of any illegal act or action by a student will be forwarded to the appropriate authority or law enforcement agency, i.e. police, sheriff, county, city, state or federal ordinance prohibiting all of the following acts.
- Arson (SS 30-17-5 NMSA 1978)
  - Assault (SS 30-3-1 NMSA 1978)
  - Bomb Threat (SS30-20-16 NMSA 1978)
  - Breaking and Entering (SS 30-14-8 NMSA 1978)
  - Criminal Damage to Property (Vandalism) (SS30-15-1 NMSA 1978)
  - Extortion (SS 30-16-9 NMSA 1978)
  - Possession of Alcohol by Minor (SS 60-7B-1 NMSA 1978)
  - Possession of Concealed Deadly Weapon (SS 30-7-2 NMSA 1978)
  - Possession of Controlled Substance (SS 30-31-23 NMSA 1978)
  - Robbery (SS 30-16-2 NMSA 1978)
  - Tobacco (SS 30-49-3 NMSA 1978)
  - Unlawful Carrying of a Deadly Weapon (SS 30-7-2 NMSA 1978)

Any other violation of county, city/state, and/or federal ordinance or law will be communicated to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

## **MERIT/DEMERIT SYSTEM AND DISCIPLINARY CODE**

The GREAT Academy uses a merit/ demerit system of discipline that is intended to allow students to be held accountable for both positive as well as negative behaviors that are observed by the staff of the school. A student can be assessed demerits based on negative behavior. Demerits can be erased by displaying outstanding character and earning merits. Any staff member may recommend a suitable assignment of merits or demerits, but the final designation will only be made by the Executive Director or the Dean of Students. The following list is not all inclusive and may be added to or altered depending on the particular situation by the Executive Director or the Dean of Students. Merits and demerits are accumulated throughout the school year and are only reset with the beginning of a new school year. One male and one female student with the most merits from each grade at the end of the academic quarter will earn the GREAT Student award for that quarter.

### **NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR - DEMERITS**

#### **9.2 ARSON – 50 Demerits**

Maliciously, willfully, and/or neglectfully starting, by any means, a fire or causing an explosion on school property or at any school related activity.

#### **9.3 ASSAULT – 50 Demerits**

Any act, threat or menacing conduct which causes another to believe that he/she is in danger of receiving injury or harm.

#### **9.4 ASSAULT WITH FIREARM/KNIFE OR CUTTING OBJECT – 50 Demerits**

An unlawful attempt to physically threaten or harm another individual. Intending or performing assault with a weapon, instrument, or any means of force likely to produce bodily injury.

#### **9.5 BATTERY – 50 Demerits**

Any unlawful, intentional touching or application of force when done in a rude, insolent or angry manner.

- Battery with a Firearm
- Battery with a knife/cutting object
- Battery on a school official
- Battery with another weapon

#### **9.6 BOMB THREAT – 50 Demerits**

Falsely and maliciously stating to another either verbally or in writing that a bomb or other explosive has been placed in such a position that person or properties are likely to be injured or destroyed.

### **9.7 BREAKING AND ENTERING – 50 Demerits**

Illegal or unauthorized entry into school facilities.

### **9.8 BULLYING/INTIMIDATION/INSTIGATION – 10-25 Demerits**

Any act or speech that subjects person to indignity, humiliation, intimidation, physical abuse or threat of physical abuse, social or other isolation, shame or disgrace, whether verbal, written, or gestural. (See Section 17 – Anti-Bullying Policy)

### **9.9 CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE/SEXTING – 5-25 Demerits**

Using cellular phones or other electronic devices during instructional time (calling, receiving calls, sending or receiving text messages, taking photographs or use in any other manner that is in violation of this discipline handbook.

### **9.10 CHEATING – 5-25 Demerits**

Using or attempting to use a dishonest, unethical or unapproved method to gain unfair advantage in demonstrating competency in performing a skill, achieving a goal, or to misrepresent the attainment of knowledge.

### **9.11 CYBER-BULLYING, INTIMIDATION/INSTIGATION BY USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICE OR SOCIAL NETWORKING OUTLET – 5-25 Demerits**

Any act by use of transmitted communication, either by electronic device, or other transmittal device that subjects persons to indignity, humiliation, intimidation, physical abuse or threat of physical abuse, social or other isolation, shame or disgrace. This also includes direct or indirect communication of social networking sites. Examples of cyber-bullying include:

- Posting slurs rumors or other disparaging remarks about a student or staff member on any website.
- Sending email, text or instant messages that are harassing or threatening in nature.
- Taking and sending an unauthorized and/or unwanted photograph of a student or staff member.
- Using any unauthorized electronic transmission to threaten, intimidate or harass by means of direct or indirect contact.

### **9.12 DAMAGE TO PRIVATE OR SCHOOL PROPERTY – 25-50 Demerits**

A student shall not steal, cause damage to or destroy school property or private property if on school grounds or during a school function.

### **9.13 DANGEROUS WEAPONS OR INSTRUMENTS – 25-50**

A student shall not possess, use, transmit or conceal any object that might be considered a dangerous weapon or instrument of violence. This policy is enacted to implement the requirements of the Federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1995, 33 U.S.C. 3351.

**Weapon** – For the purpose of this policy, a “weapon” is any firearm, knife, explosive, or other object, even if manufactured for a nonviolent purpose, that has a potentially violent use, or any “look-a-like” object that resembles an object that has a potentially violent use,

if under the surrounding circumstances, the purpose of keeping or carrying the object is for use, or threat of use, as a weapon.

- This list is not totally inclusive, but some examples are: sharp instruments, cutting instruments, cutting tools, knives, pipes, guns, ice picks, switchblades, brass knuckles, nunchukus, handguns, BB guns, pellet guns, shotguns, rifles, firecrackers, explosive devices, chemicals and gases including mace.

#### **9.14 DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL AND/OR CLASS (INCLUDING HORSEPLAY) – 10-30 Demerits**

A student shall not engage in any conduct that may cause or create a substantial disruption or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose, or that interferes or creates a reasonable likelihood that it will interfere with the health, safety, well-being or rights of other students. This includes excessive handshakes or greetings.

#### **9.15 DRUGS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND LOOK-A-LIKE DRUGS – 50 Demerits**

A student shall not possess, use, transmit, distribute, secrete, sell or be under the influence of any drug or alcoholic beverage of any kind with the exception of the student who is taking prescription medicine under the direction of a physician. The office and teachers must be informed in regard to prescription medication. This restriction shall refer to:

- The school grounds, during, before or after school hours
- Off school grounds at a school activity
- On school buses or rented carriers
- Use prior to attending a school activity, function or event
- A student shall not knowingly possess, sell, make offer to sell, give, package or deliver a counterfeit controlled substance; nor shall he/she represent a counterfeit controlled substance by describing it as being the same physical or mental effect associated with use of a controlled substance; nor shall a student falsely represent a counterfeit controlled substance as a controlled substance.

#### **9.16 DRUGS/SALE/POSSESSION OR DISTRIBUTION – 50 Demerits**

Being in possession of, selling or distributing any object used to store, process, inhale or ingest drugs (any substance capable of producing a change in behavior or altering a state of mind or feeling). This includes all controlled substances or any look-a-like substances.

#### **9.17 DRUNKENNESS/DISORIENTATION – ALCOHOL OR DRUGS – 30-50 Demerits**

The physical, mental or emotional impairment of personal faculties caused by alcohol, the use of marijuana, hallucinogenic drugs, other abuse prone drugs, counterfeit drugs, controlled substances or any substance with an intoxicating effect.

##### **Definition of a substance with intoxicating/addictive effect:**

- A. A substance such as, but not limited to, permanent markers, hair spray, vanilla, liquid paper, gasoline, or caffeine pills used to produce and intoxicating effect.
- B. Drugs prescribed by the student's physician that are being taken according to the discretion of the prescription are exempt under this policy. NOTE: Such prescribed

medications are to be kept in the health office and taken under the supervision of school personnel.

**9.18 EXPLOSIVES – 50 Demerits**

The use, possession or sale of explosive devices that are capable of injury to self or others.

**9.19 EXTORTION – 30 Demerits**

Using intimidation or the threat of violence to obtain money, information or anything else of value from another person.

**9.20 FALSE ALARM – 30 Demerits**

Interfering with a fire control system or giving a false report, whether by means of a fire alarm or otherwise.

**9.21 FIGHTING – 30-50 Demerits**

The act of physical aggression towards another student or staff member.

**9.22 FIREWORKS/AMMUNITION – 30 Demerits**

The use, possession or sale of any incendiary device which may cause injury to self or others. Including but not limited to ammunition of any kind.

**9.23 FORGERY – 30 Demerits**

The act of falsifying a person's name or altering any school document and/or fraudulent use of school documents. Examples include notes from parents/legal guardians, teachers, and school personnel.

**9.24 GANG RELATED ACTIVITY – 50 Demerits**

Gang related activity can be intimidating to students, faculty, and the staff and is disruptive to the educational process. Although this list is not all inclusive, examples of inappropriate and unacceptable behaviors include such things as gang graffiti on school property, intimidation of others, gang fight and/or initiation rituals, and/or wearing gang attire or "colors," or gang symbols, "sagging" and communicating gang symbols. Gang related activity can be engaged by those in a gang, related to a gang or just those that are intrigued by gangs. Since gang behavior, symbols, and colors are variable and subject to rapid change, school administrators and staff must exercise judgment and their individual discretion based upon current circumstances in the school when evaluating gang related activity.

**9.25 HAZING/INITIATION – 30 Demerits**

To harass by requiring the performance of unnecessary, disagreeable, degrading or humiliating tasks. To require students to engage in activities which could potentially result in harm or bodily injury to an individual. To play abusive, humiliating tricks as criteria for membership.

**9.26 INSUBORDINATION – 10-30 Demerits**

A student shall not fail to comply with the directions of teachers, student teachers, aides, principals or other authorized school personnel. He/she shall not fail to comply with the rules and regulations of the school.

**9.27 LEAVING THE SCHOOL BUILDING/GROUNDS WITHOUT PERMISSION – 30 Demerits**

A student shall not leave the school grounds or building without being properly checked out by a parent or legal guardian.

**9.28 OBSCENE MATERIALS/ITEMS/BEHAVIOR – 15 Demerits**

Displaying and/or the possession of indecent and/or offensive materials or items. This includes making gestures that are indecent or offensive in nature. Also included are pictures, drawings and images on clothing.

**9.29 OTHER SCHOOL RULES – 5-50 Demerits**

Acts of misconduct not specified herein shall also be subject to discretionary action by appropriate school personnel.

**9.30 PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION – 5-25 Demerits**

Inappropriate physical contact between students.

**9.31 SEXUAL ASSAULT – 50 Demerits**

An unlawful attempt or threat to do harm of a sexual nature. Threatening physical harm to another or causing a present fear of imminent danger to the person by use of threats, gestures, verbal assaults or instigation of a sexual nature.

**9.32 SEXUAL BATTERY – 50 Demerits**

Inappropriate or unwanted touching of a sexual manner.

**9.33 SEXUAL HARASSMENT – 15-50 Demerits**

Behavior (including gestures) or words (oral or written) that are directed at a student or school personnel because of his/her sex that are uninvited, unwanted, or unwelcome which would cause the person of that sex to feel uncomfortable or offended or when the conduct by its nature is clearly unwelcome or inappropriate. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A. Comments about body parts or rating a person's body
- B. Spreading of sexual rumors, stories or jokes
- C. Using sexual orientation as an insult
- D. Staring or pointing at a person's body parts
- E. Making obscene gestures
- F. Displaying of sexual materials



- G. Verbal sexual advances including subtle pressure for sexual activity
- H. Repeated or persistent unwelcome requests for dates, meeting, or other social interactions

**NOTE: If sexual touching occurs, the Sexual Battery policy can be enforced.**

**9.34 SKIPPING OR CUTTING CLASS – 5-20 Demerits**

Skipping or cutting class is defined as not being in the assigned classroom, study hall, lunch period, etc., but not leaving the school building/grounds.

**9.35 SMOKING/USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS – 25 Demerits**

The use of tobacco products, smoking, chewing or dipping. Possession of tobacco products on one's person or personal belongings such as backpacks, while at school, on school property, or at a school activity. This includes vaporizers or E-cigarettes.

**9.36 STALKING – 30-50 Demerits**

Continual, unwanted, pursuing/attention.

**9.37 TARDINESS – 5 Demerits**

Arriving after the designated beginning of school/class.

**9.38 TECHNOLOGY CODE – 5-25 Demerits**

Engaging in any activity prohibited by the technology agreement or visiting unauthorized websites during class.

**9.39 TRESSPASSING/UNAUTHORIZED PRESENCE – 5-15 Demerits**

Entering or being on school grounds or in a school office without authorization.

**9.40 UNIFORM VIOLATION – 5-15 Demerits**

Any violation of the uniform policy (see Section 6)

**9.41 UNLAWFUL PHONE/VIDEO CAMERA PHOTOGRAPHING OF PRINTED MATERIALS PROHIBITED ACTS – 30 Demerits**

Use of any non-approved video production by means of videotapes, films photographs, exhibits, or any electronic transmitted images of any school materials that are strictly the property of The GREAT Academy is in violation of this discipline handbook.

**9.42 USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONICS – 5-15 Demerits**

Students are not permitted to use any form of personal electronics during instructional time.

**9.43 USE OF PROFANITY AND/OR OBSCENE LANGUAGE OR GESTURES – 10-25 Demerits**

A student shall not use any form of profanity, written or verbal. Included in this prohibition would be the use of obscene gestures, signs, pictures or publications, obscene language, phrase or partial phrases.

**9.44 VIDEO CELL PHONE/VIDEO CAMERA VOYERISM PROHIBITED ACTS – 30 Demerits**

Use of any non-approved video production by means of videotapes, films, photographs, exhibits, or any electronic transmitted images during school hours is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to lewd or obscene images and videos, but also includes the transmission of any act that is prohibited by school policies or a state and federal law is in violation of this handbook.

**9.45 DISPLAYING ACTIONS THAT ARE COUNTER TO THE PILLARS OF GOOD LEADERSHIP – 5-30 Demerits**

Students should always strive to model the six pillars of good leadership; trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Behavior that is the opposite of these pillars is not tolerated at The GREAT Academy.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOR - MERITS**

**9.46 DISPLAYING TRUSTWORTHINESS – 5-30 Merits**

Trustworthiness is shown by a student when they are honest and does the things they are supposed to do and by being loyal to their family, school and country.  
Example: Reporting the bullying of another student to staff members.

**9.47 DISPLAYING RESPECT – 5-30 Merits**

Demonstrating respect means that a student is accepting of others differences. Another way to show a good grasp of respect is to handle a disagreement in a professional manner.  
Example: Welcoming a new student by showing them around campus and teaching them the TGA way of doing things.

**9.48 DISPLAYING RESPONSIBILITY – 5-30 Merits**

Responsibility is doing what you say you will do. Responsibility also means that you has self-control, even in situations that might be difficult.  
Example: Not joining friends in an activity that is against school rules.

**9.49 DISPLAYING FAIRNESS – 5-30 Merits**

Fairness is playing by the rules and listening to other points of view. Fairness means thinking about your actions and not blaming others.  
Example: Cleaning up after yourself so others will not have to.

**9.50 DISPLAYING CARING – 5-30 Merits**

Caring means being concerned about the wellbeing of others and not just oneself. It also means thinking of those in need and doing something about it.  
Example: Volunteering to tutor a struggling student during non-instructional time.

## **9.51 DISPLAYING CITIZENSHIP - 5-30 Merits**

Citizenship is being respectful to authority and obeying the rules. It is also working to improve your school and outside community or listening during morning memo.

Example: Picking up trash on campus without being told.

### **9.51 SUMMARY OF DEMERIT ACCUMULATION**

Demerits will be used to track student behavioral issues. The following list is a suggested means of progressive discipline that is used as a guide only. The Executive Director or the Dean of Students can prescribe corrective actions to include any mentioned earlier in this section with or without the accumulation of demerits depending on each individual situation.

- 15-20 Demerits - 1 day suspension. Students will be counseled. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be contacted at 15.
- 20-30 Demerits - 3 day suspension. Contact with parent(s)/guardian(s). Parent conference prior to student returning.
- 31-40 Demerits - 5 day suspension. Letter mailed to parent(s)/guardian(s). Parent conference prior to student returning. Behavior Contract will be enacted.
- 41-50 Demerits - 7 day suspension. Phone call/letter to parent(s)/guardian(s).
- 50 Demerits - 10 day suspension. Letter to parent(s)/guardian(s) explaining the consequences of 50 demerits. Recommendation to alternative setting (Second Chance Program) for the remainder of the semester, remainder of the school year or remainder of calendar year. Parents also have the option of withdrawing a student from the school at this point.

## **SECTION 10 – TECHNOLOGY USE BY STUDENTS**

### **Use of Technology Resources in Instruction Electronic Information Services User Agreement**

Details of the user agreement shall be discussed with each potential user of the electronic information services. When the signed agreement is returned to the school, the user may be permitted use of school technology.

#### **10.1 Acceptable Use**

Each user **MUST**:

- A. Use school technology to support personal educational objectives consistent with the educational goals and objectives of the GREAT Academy.
- B. Agree not to submit, publish, display or retrieve any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive or illegal material.
- C. Abide by all copyright and trademark laws and regulations.
- D. Understand that electronic mail and direct electronic communication is not private and may be read and monitored by school-employed persons.
- E. Follow the GREAT Academy's code of conduct.
- F. Understand that inappropriate use may result in cancellation of permission to use school technology and appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion for students.

Each user must **NOT**:

- A. Attempt to harm, modify, add, remove or destroy software or hardware.
- B. Attempt to circumvent the security or restrictions enforced on school technology.
- C. Share login or account information for any software, website, or service.
- D. Reveal home addresses, personal phone numbers or personally identifiable data unless authorized to do so by designated school authorities.
- E. Use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by others.
- F. Use school technology for commercial purposes.

#### **10.2 Personal Responsibility**

- A. Students will report any misuse of school technology to the administration or system administrator, as is appropriate.
- B. All students should understand that there are many services and products available for a fee. Students are personally responsible for any expenses incurred without GREAT Academy authorization.

### **10.3 Network Etiquette**

Students are expected to abide by the generally acceptable rules of network etiquette.

- A. Be polite and use appropriate language. Do not send or encourage others to send abusive messages.
- B. Respect privacy. Do not share any personally identifiable information or personal photographs.
- C. Avoid disruptions. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt use of the systems by others.
- D. Observe the following considerations:
  - a. Be brief.
  - b. Strive to use correct spelling and make messages easy to understand.
  - c. Use short and descriptive titles for articles.
  - d. Post only to known groups or persons.

### **10.4 Services**

The GREAT Academy specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy of information.

While the school will make an effort to ensure access to proper materials, the user has the ultimate responsibility for how school technology is used and bears the risk of reliance on the information obtained.

## **SECTION 11 – DISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATIONS FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

A student receiving special education services may be short-term suspended by the Executive Director, as long as the cumulative number of days suspended do not exceed ten days in a school year. If the student's behavior warrants long term suspension or expulsion, the multi-disciplinary team must meet to determine if the behavior that prompted the suspension or expulsion is related to or caused by the student's disability.

Students receiving special education services may not be long term suspended or expelled because of his or her disability or behaviors directly related to his/her disability without the district providing educational services as a part of a free and appropriate public education.

### **11.1 Infraction Related to a Student's Disability**

Within ten school days of suspension, the multi-disciplinary team will meet to determine the relationship between the behavior prompting suspension and the student's disability. If it is determined that the behavior that prompted the suspension is related to or caused by the student's disability, the student will be placed in an interim alternative educational setting for a period of forty-five school days. During this time the student shall receive access to general curriculum and special services to address the behavior noted as a concern. Placement in the interim alternative educational setting will be reviewed on or before the forty-fifth school day of placement. The multi-disciplinary team will then make a determination to continue the alternative setting for an additional forty-five school days or to return the student to his/her previous placement.

### **11.2 Infraction Not Related to a Student's Disability**

Within ten school days of suspension, the multi-disciplinary team will meet to determine the relationship between the behavior prompting suspension and the student's disability. If it is determined that the behavior that prompted the suspension is not related to or caused by the student's disability, the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures will apply. If the Hearing Officer determines that a long-term suspension is the appropriate sanction, education services will be provided to a student receiving special education services at the interim alternative educational setting. Please note that the alternative placement will not exceed the maximum number of days a student has been long-term suspended.

### **11.3 Special Circumstances – Weapons, Drug Violations or Infliction of Serious Bodily Injury**

A student receiving special education services that violates the GREAT Academy policies regarding weapons or drugs will be suspended to an alternative interim educational setting. If a student receiving special education services inflicts serious bodily injury, he/she will be suspended to an alternative interim educational setting. Within ten school days of the administrator's decision to suspend, the multi-disciplinary team will meet to determine if the behavior that prompted the suspension is related to or caused by the student's disability. If the multi-disciplinary team finds that the behavior is not related to the disability, the procedures in section 8.45 will apply.

## **SECTION 12 – TOBACCO FREE SCHOOL POLICY**

All students are prohibited from possessing, distributing or using tobacco products on GREAT Academy property or during school sponsored or sanctioned events and activities.

### **12.1 Definition, Description and Restrictions**

Tobacco product: In this policy a tobacco product is defined as any form of tobacco – cigarettes, cigars, snuff, plug or leaf in either smoked or smokeless forms.

The possession, distribution or use of any tobacco product by students is prohibited at all times inside any building, on any property and in any vehicle which is owned, leased, rented or loaned to the school. The possession, distribution or use of any tobacco product by students at any school function is prohibited at all times.

### **12.2 Consequences**

Administrative discretion will dictate enforcement of this policy. Repeated violations may warrant short or long-term suspension. If necessary, legal action will be taken to remove violators.

## SECTION 13 – DRUG POLICY

### 13.1 For the purpose of this policy, “drugs” shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. All controlled substances prohibited by law.
- B. All alcoholic beverages and items containing quantities of alcohol.
- C. Any prescription or over-the-counter drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to board policy.
- D. Hallucinogenic substances.
- E. Inhalants.
- F. Counterfeit and look alike substances.

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, distributing, buying, selling or being under the influence of drugs, counterfeit (look-alike) drugs and from possessing, using or distributing drug paraphernalia while on school property or at school-sponsored activities, including transit and lodging.

If a staff member suspects that a student is under the influence of drugs during the school day, the student shall be referred to the school administration immediately. If a staff member suspects that a student is under the influence of drugs during a school sponsored activity, the student shall be referred to the activity sponsor immediately and the sponsor will contact the school administration. In situations where the students are a danger to themselves or others, administrative action shall be taken to provide a safe environment.

Certified drug dogs may be used for sweeps of student’s possessions and vehicles on a school campus at the discretion of the Executive Director.

### 13.2 Consequences for Violation of Policy

The consequences for being under the influence:

- A. Any student under the influence of drugs may be referred for medical treatment.
- B. The student will be suspended pending an investigation.
- C. The local law enforcement authorities may be notified and the student may be turned over to the local law enforcement authorities.
- D. Within five working days of the suspension, the student must schedule and/or undergo a diagnostic evaluation for drug dependency. This evaluation may include a chemical drug screen, such as, but not limited to, a urinalysis or hair follicle exam. The evaluation will be at the expense of the student or parent/guardian of the student. A copy of the evaluation will be provided to the Executive Director. The student may return to school at the discretion of the Executive Director or after an investigation into the matter, be referred to The GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures.
- E. If the student is permitted back into school after any violation, he/she will be placed on a discipline contract at the school site.



The consequences for being in possession:

- A. Any student in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia will be suspended pending an investigation. If the investigation determines that long term suspension or expulsion is warranted, the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures will apply.
- B. The student will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.
- C. Within five school days of the suspension, the student must undergo a diagnostic evaluation for drug or alcohol dependency. This evaluation may include a chemical analysis, such as, but not limited to, a urinalysis or hair follicle exam. The evaluation will be at the expense of the student or parent/guardian of the student. Evaluation results will be considered at the student's Due Process Hearing.
- D. If the student is permitted back into school after any violation, she/he will be placed on a discipline contract.

### **13.3 Suspicion of Drug Use**

If a staff member suspects that a student has begun to use drugs the student shall be referred to the Student Assistance Team and to the school administration to determine future courses of action. In situations where the students are a danger to themselves or others, administrative action shall be taken to attempt to provide a safe environment.

## **SECTION 14 – FIREWORKS**

### **14.1 Definition of Fireworks**

Fireworks are defined as any devices including, but not limited to chemical exothermic devices, smoke generators, fuses and any other device that yields smoke or is designed to yield smoke, with or without explosion.

### **14.2 Possession of Fireworks**

Possession of any firework, regardless of discharge, is prohibited on GREAT Academy property or during school sponsored or sanctioned events and activities. A student in possession of an explosive device, regardless of origin, on school property or in school vehicles may be reported to law enforcement authorities.

### **14.3 Consequences for Violation of Policy**

Administrative discretion will dictate consequences. Violations may warrant short or long-term suspension or expulsion. If necessary, legal action will be taken.

**SECTION 15 – STUDENTS PETITIONED FOR A FELONY, CHARGED WITH A FELONY OR CONVICTED OF A FELONIOUS ACT**

A student who is petitioned for a felony, charged with a felony or convicted of a felony or a felonious act may be subject to The GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures.

## **SECTION 16 – WEAPONS / FIREARMS**

### **16.1 Weapons Definition**

Weapons in this policy are defined as any firearm that is loaded or unloaded and any instrument that may cause bodily injury or loss of life. Weapons include, but are not limited to bows, any type of dagger, brass knuckles, dirk knives, butterfly knives, other gravity knives and all instruments that when thrust, launched or thrown can inflict injury or cause loss of life. Weapons also include slingshots and bludgeons. In addition, any other weapon such as a pistol, air rifle, paintball gun, pellet gun or potato gun and any explosive, regardless of size or construction, are strictly prohibited.

### **16.2 School Premises Definition**

School premises means any GREAT Academy facility such as the buildings and grounds, in or on which school or school related activities are being operated under the supervision of the GREAT Academy Board of Directors.

### **16.3 Presence of Weapons on School Premises**

The presence of weapons on school premises at any time not only creates unacceptable risks of injury or loss of life, but also creates a climate that undermines the educational process. Accordingly, it is the policy of the GREAT Academy to forbid the possession, custody and use of weapons by unauthorized persons on school premises and/or during school sponsored activities. The GREAT Academy seeks to create a safe learning and working environment and adheres to all local, state and national laws.

### **16.4 Violation of GREAT Academy Policy**

- A. Any student who violates this policy will be suspended and the GREAT Academy Due Process Hearing Procedures will apply. The student will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. If a school administrator or employee has reasonable cause to believe that a student is in possession of or has been in possession of a weapon on school premises, the administrator shall immediately report the student to a law enforcement agency. It is unlawful to carry a weapon including a “look-alike,” on school premises except by a Certified Law Enforcement Officer.
- B. Any student bringing or in possession of a weapon on school premises shall be recommended for suspension from the GREAT Academy for a period of not less than one year. The elements of this policy shall not deny rights to students covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1997.

### **16.5 Involvement in Bringing a Weapon on Campus**

Students will be held accountable for their involvement in situations where a weapon was brought on school premises. Students who are involved may receive consequences at the discretion of the Executive Director.

## **SECTION 17 – GANG ACTIVITIES / SECRET SOCIETIES**

The presence and activities of gangs and secret societies in the public schools create an atmosphere of intimidation in the entire school community. The short and long term effects of gangs and secret societies are disruptive to the educational process and are prohibited in the school.

### **17.1 Definitions**

A gang is any group of three or more persons, whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts and/or acts in violation of disciplinary rules of the school, including but not limited to intimidation, threats and violence.

A secret society is a social organization that requires its members to conceal certain activities from outsiders and members may be required to conceal or deny their membership.

For the purpose of this section, secret societies will be treated identical to gangs as warranted.

### **17.2 Prohibitions**

No student on or about school property or at any school activity shall:

- A. Wear anything that can be considered by the GREAT Academy or the Albuquerque Police Department as gang related is prohibited. This includes “sagging” clothing, bandannas, headwear, pocket chains, hair nets, jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs, gang-related tattoos or other item(s) that evidence or reflect membership in or affiliation with any gang.
- B. Engage in any act, either verbal or nonverbal, including gestures, whistling or handshakes, showing membership or affiliation with any gang.
- C. Engage in any act in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including but not limited to:
  1. Soliciting membership in or affiliation with any gang.
  2. Soliciting any person to pay for “protection” or threatening any person, explicitly or implicitly, with violence or with any other illegal or prohibited act.
  3. Painting, writing or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, symbols or signs, on school premises or on personal notebooks or backpacks or other items in the student’s possession.
  4. Engaging in violence, extortion or any other illegal act or other violation on school premises or at a school related activity.
  5. Soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against any other person.

### **17.3 Application and Enforcement**

- A. In determining, as part of the application and enforcement of this policy, whether acts, conduct or activities are gang related school officials are encouraged to exercise discretion and judgment based upon current circumstances in their schools, neighborhoods and areas.

- B. School officials shall work closely with local law enforcement officials in controlling gang-related activities. Local law enforcement personnel can provide school officials with information regarding gang activities in the area, including names and characteristics of local gangs.
- C. School officials will report instances of criminal acts to local law enforcement authorities for further action.

#### **17.4 Violation of Policy**

An administrator shall make the final decision on whether a student's dress and/or behavior are indicative of gang involvement. Students who violate this policy shall be subject to the full range of school disciplinary measures in addition to applicable criminal and civil penalties.

School officials will retain the right to seek monetary reimbursement from parents of students involved in acts of vandalism or graffiti for, but not limited to, removal and/or repair as result of vandalism or graffiti on school premises.

## SECTION 18 – ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

### 18.1 Harassment Definition

“*Harassment*” means knowingly pursuing a pattern of conduct that is intended to annoy, alarm or terrorize another person.

### 18.2 Bullying Definition

“*Bullying*” means any repeated and pervasive written, verbal or electronic expression, physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at school activities or sanctioned events. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, hazing, harassment, intimidation or menacing acts of a student which may, but need not be based on the student’s race, color, sex, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation.

### 18.3 Cyberbullying Definition

“*Cyberbullying*” is defined as an electronic communication that targets a specific student; is published with the intention that the communication be seen by or disclosed to the target student; is seen by or disclosed to the targeted student, and creates or is certain to create a hostile environment on the school campus that is so severe or pervasive as to substantially interfere with the targeted student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites. Examples of cyberbullying include, but are not limited to:

- a. Mean text messages or emails
- b. Rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites
- c. Embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles

### 18.4 Sexual Harassment Definition

“*Sexual Harassment*” means any unwelcome sexual advances, requests or sexual favors, or other inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may take place under any of the following circumstances:

- a. When submission to such conduct is made, explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of obtaining an education; or
- b. Submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used to factor in decisions affecting that individual’s education; or
- c. That conduct or communication has the purpose of effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual’s education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

### 18.5 Hazing Definition

“*Hazing*” means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing and act, that creates a risk of harm to a person, in order for that student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. Hazing includes but is not limited to:

- a. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.

- b. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subject the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- c. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- d. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects the student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
- e. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves a violation of state or federal law, or school policies.

**18.6 Racial Harassment Definition**

“Racial Harassment” consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual’s race when the conduct:

- a. Has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment;
- b. Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual’s academic performance; or
- c. Otherwise adversely affects an individual’s academic opportunities.

**18.7 Notice of Prohibition against Bullying and Anti-Bullying Interventions**

- 1. The prohibition against bullying shall be publicized by including the following statement in the student handbook(s):

“Bullying or cyberbullying behavior by any student in The GREAT Academy is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. “Bullying” means any repeated and pervasive written, verbal or electronic expression, physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the school, on school grounds, at a designated bus stop, or at school activities or sanctioned events. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, hazing, harassment, intimidation or menacing acts of a student which may, but need not be based on the student’s race, color, sex, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:

- a. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to the student’s property; or
- b. Physically harming a student or damaging a student’s property; or



- c. Insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school’s educational mission or the education of any student.
    - i. Students and parents may file verbal or written complaints concerning suspected bullying behavior to school personnel and administrators. Any report of suspected bullying behavior will be promptly reviewed. If acts of bullying are verified, prompt disciplinary action may be taken against the perpetrator, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.”
  - d. Lesbian, Gay, or Transgender youth and those who are perceived as LGBT are at an increased risk of being bullied. The GREAT Academy believes it is important to build a safe environment for all youth, whether they are straight or LGBT. All youth can thrive when they feel supported. Here are some tips for staff, students, and parent at The GREAT Academy to keep LGBT students feeling emotionally and physically safe:
    - i. Build strong connections and keep the lines of communication open. It is important for students to know that their families, friends, schools, and communities support them.
    - ii. Establish a safe environment at school. Schools can send a message that no one should be treated differently because they are or are perceived to be LGBT.
    - iii. Protect privacy. Be careful not to disclose or discuss issues around being LGBT with parents or anyone else.
2. Staff will be reminded at the beginning of each school year about the Anti-Bullying Policy, as well as their responsibilities regarding bullying behavior. A copy of the policy will be disseminated annually.
  3. The Anti-Bullying Policy will be available on The GREAT Academy website, and in all student, staff and parent handbooks.

### **18.8 Reporting Intimidation, Harassment, or Bullying Behavior**

1. Any student who believes he/she has been the victim of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or hazing by a student or school personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of such conduct that may constitute harassment, intimidation, bullying, or hazing toward a student should immediately report the alleged acts.
2. The report may be made to any staff member. The staff member will assist the student in reporting to the Head Administrator or other personnel.
3. Teachers and other school staff who witness acts of bullying or receive student reports of bullying are required to promptly notify designated staff.
4. Reports should be done in writing using the Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, or Hazing Complaint Form. A copy of this form will be submitted to the Safe School coordinator.

5. The GREAT Academy Head Administrator or designee is required to accept and investigate all reports of intimidation, harassment or bullying.
6. The GREAT Academy Head Administrator or designee is required to notify the parent or guardian of a student who commits a verified act of intimidation, harassment, or bullying of the response of the school staff and consequences that may result from further acts of bullying.
7. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting directly to the Head Administrator/Executive Director.
8. Retaliation against an individual who either orally reports or files a written complaint regarding harassment, intimidation, bullying, or hazing or who participates in or cooperates with an investigation is prohibited.
9. The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and the accused, shall be preserved consistent with applicable laws.
10. If harassment or bullying continues, the perpetrator will be immediately suspended and removed from the school, pending a long-term hearing.
11. To the extent permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) school staff is required to notify the parent or guardian of a student who is a target of bullying of the action taken to prevent any further acts of bullying.

### **18.9 Investigating Intimidation, Harassment, or Bullying Behavior**

The GREAT Academy, or their designee will appropriately and promptly investigate all reports of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or hazing. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes bullying, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, the student's history, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred will be investigated.

1. The Executive Director or designee will make every effort to inform the parents/guardians of the victim and the accused of any report of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or hazing *prior* to the investigation taking place.
2. The investigation shall consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint was filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of other methods or documents deemed relevant by the investigator.
3. The school may take immediate steps to protect the complainant, students, teachers, administrators, or other school personnel pending the completion of an investigation.
4. The investigation shall be completed as soon as possible. The Executive Director (or investigator) shall make a written report upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the Executive Director, the investigator shall file the report directly with the New Mexico Public Education Department, Educator Ethics Bureau. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been sustained as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy. A copy of the completed report will be maintained by the Safe School Coordinator.

### **18.10 Consequences for Bullying**

1. Verified acts of bullying shall result in intervention by the Executive Director or his/her designee that is intended to ensure that the prohibition against bullying behavior is enforced.
2. Bullying behavior can take many forms and can vary dramatically in how serious it is, and what impact it has on the targeted individual and other students. Accordingly, there is no one response to bullying. While conduct that rises to the level of “bullying” as defined above will generally warrant disciplinary action against the perpetrator of such bullying, whether and to what extent to impose disciplinary action (detention, in and out-of-school suspension, or expulsion) is a matter for the professional discretion of the Executive Director or designee.

### **18.11 Consequences for Knowingly Making False Reports**

1. False charges shall also be regarded as serious offenses and will result in disciplinary action or other appropriate sanctions.

### **Anti-Bullying included in Health Education and Other Curricula**

“Health Education” is the instructional program that provides the opportunity to motivate and assist all students to maintain and improve their health, prevent disease, and reduce health related risk behaviors. It allows students to develop and demonstrate increasingly sophisticated health-related knowledge, attitudes, skills and practices. It meets the content standards with the benchmarks and performance standards as set forth in 6.30.2.19 NMAC. Bullying behavior is mentioned specifically in many areas of the Health Education performance standards in all grade levels. All students need to be aware of bullying behaviors, no matter the age. It is imperative that students are comfortable with understanding, describing and recognizing bullying behaviors, and then in the latter grades being able to analyze those behaviors and role play refusal skills. Our curriculum does recognize the importance of bully prevention skills.

In addition to anti-bullying behaviors and skills being taught in the Health curriculum, both the Character Counts! and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) frameworks that are utilized at the school will reinforce the anti-bullying attitudes and expectations that the school encourages and enforces. PBIS is a school-wide system of support that includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve lifestyle results (personal, health, social, family, work, recreation) for all children and youth by making targeted behaviors less effective, efficient, relevant and desired behavior more functional.

All students will be required to read The GREAT Academy Bullying Policy and to sign The GREAT Academy Anti-Bullying Pledge.

### **18.12 Threats of Violence**

1. Threats of violence toward other students, school staff, or facilities generally are prohibited and may result in suspension or expulsion, regardless of whether the student has previously engaged in such conduct.
2. All employees and students are required to report evidence of threats of violence to their Head Administrator or other school staff. Such reports shall be investigated by the Head Administrator or designee. All such reports shall be documented by the Head Administrator.
3. In cases of threats that may constitute a violation of criminal law, the Head Administrator or designee shall notify law enforcement authorities.
4. Students who are charged with violation of this policy shall be placed on short-term suspension pending investigation of the charge(s). Those found, through a due-process hearing, to have violated this regulation shall be subject to discipline, including long-term suspension or expulsion. For Special Education students, administrators will consult with the Special Education Coordinator regarding the appropriate process.

### **18.13 Resources**

1. New Mexico Public Education Department, School and Family Support Bureau – online <http://www.ped.state.nm.us> or phone: 505-827-1804
2. Anti-Bullying Policy rule 6.12.7 NMAC
3. School District Wellness Policy rule 6.12.6.6 NMAC
4. New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey – online at <http://www.youthrisk.org/pdf/YRRS-2011-HS-E-Std.pdf>
5. National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, Government approved resources on prevention, intervention, & stats <http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/topics/bullying.asp>.
6. OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports – Effective School-wide Interventions – online at <http://www.pbis.org/school/default.aspx>.

## SECTION 19 – ATTENDANCE POLICY

### **The Great Academy will enforce the following to comply with NM State Compulsory Attendance Law:**

1. In addition to attendance being taken as students enter the building through the IdentiMetrics Finger-scanning system that interfaces directly with PowerSchool, all teachers will take attendance in every class and record it on the school's student data system within 15 minutes of established start time.
2. Students will be marked TARDY if they are not in class 15 minutes after the established start time for the class.
3. Students will be marked ABSENT 15 minutes after the establish start time for each class if the tardy is not excused.
4. Teachers will keep attendance in a separate attendance book. This book is a legal document that is property of The GREAT Academy and must be presented upon request by the administrative staff of the school or district.
5. Three (3) unexcused tardies in a class will result in one (1) unexcused absence for that class.

### **Regarding Pregnant/Parenting Students**

1. TGA will provide at least ten days of excused absences for a student who provides documentation of the birth of the student's child and allows the student a time period to make up the work that the student missed that equals the number of days the student was absent for the birth of a child;
2. TGA will provide excused absences for any additional days missed by a pregnant or parenting student for which a longer period of absence is deemed medically necessary by the student's physician and allows the student a time period to make up the work that the student missed that equals the number of days the student was absent;
3. TGA will provide four days per semester of excused absences, in addition to the number of allowed absences all students, for a student who provides appropriate documentation of pregnancy or that the student is the parent of a child under the age of thirteen needing care and allows the student a time period to make up the work that the student missed that equals the number of days the student was absent;
4. TGA requires that the pregnant or parenting student is responsible for communicating the student's pregnancy and parenting status to the appropriate school personnel if the student chooses to disclose the information;
5. TGA will provide a copy of the pregnant and parenting student absence policies to all students in middle, junior high and high schools;

## **Daily Student Attendance**

Daily attendance is mandatory for students to benefit most fully from the instructional program. However, the school recognizes that there are situations that cause a student to be absent from school. Any day a student is absent, if he/she does four (4) hours of coursework in their virtual portal, the absence will be deemed as excused. Students will be allowed up to (9) absences from a class per semester without penalty of loss of credit. Therefore, in accordance with guidelines, absences MAY be excused for the following reasons:

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

- Medical Appointment – (with note from Doctor)
- Illness – (not to exceed 3 days or a Doctor's note required)
- Diagnostic Testing
- Death of a family member
- Religious and /or cultural commitment
- Family emergency-with Administrative approval
- All school related activities-not to exceed NMAA policy of 15 days per semester
- Extenuating circumstances with PRIOR approval from administration.
- Travel, not covered above with PRIOR approval from administration
- Pregnancy related (see section of this policy regarding pregnant/parenting students)

### **Notification**

- It is the parent's guardian's responsibility to notify the school's attendance office (505-792-0306) when a student absent.
- Notification is to take place within 24 hours of the absence to be considered excusable should an appeal be required.
- Failure to notify within 24 hours will result in an unexcused absence.
- In cases involving partial day absence for medical appointments, etc. parents must request an off-campus authorization log located in the attendance office and obtain the pass in person or fax in a letter to be signing by the principal or designee.

### **Missed Work**

- It is the students' responsibility to request make-up work following an excused absence.
- Students may make-up missed work within 3 days of returning from an EXCUSED absence.

### **Responsibility of the School**

The school as a reporting agent has the responsibility of informing the parent/guardian of the student's non-attendance and of arranging of parent conferences as necessary. As a rule, the following provision shall apply;

### **Loss of Academic Credit**

- Any student who accumulates **10** or more non-school related absences (unexcused) in a **SEMESTER** could have the credit for that class **denied**. This does not apply for students that have courses that are not completed. Credit is only applied to completed courses. This will remove the need for parent's guardians to succumb to the pressure to call and cover for their student. In order to have the credit reinstated the student and their parent/guardian will be required to submit a Request for Credit Reinstatement in order for an appeal hearing to be scheduled. Parent/guardian will appear before an attendance committee to develop a plan for possible reinstatement of credit. Unexcused absences cannot be appealed and will not be considered in re-instatement hearings.
- The enforcement of this policy will be authorized by The GREAT Academy's Board of Directors. The GREAT Academy has the ability to block access to courses if it is determined that credit will be lost for the semester due to a student missing 10 classes in a semester.

### **Attendance Review Board (Professional Learning Community)**

Each student's Professional Learning Community (PLC) will serve as the Attendance Review Board. The purpose of the Attendance Review Board is to consider special cases where, due to unusual circumstances such as prolonged illness, terminal illness of a parent, necessary family travel, or other special circumstance where a student might need to be absent more than ten (10) days.

### **Early Identification**

**A. Three unexcused absences:** When a child has accumulated three unexcused absences, school personnel shall inform the teacher to contact the family to address the concern. In

addition, a Three Day Parent Absentee Notification Form/Letter shall be sent to the parents or the legal guardians of the child (Appendix A).

**B. Five unexcused absences:** When a child has accumulated five unexcused absences, school personnel shall inform teachers to contact the family to address the concern. At this point, the social worker, school principal, assistant principal and/or counselor will arrange a meeting at the school with the parent or legal guardian to discuss the unexcused absences. A Five Day Absentee Notification Letter/Form will be sent to the child's parent or legal guardian (Appendix B).

**C. Seven unexcused absences:** When a child has accumulated seven unexcused absences, school personnel shall teachers to contact family to address the concern. At this point, the social worker, school principal, assistant principal and/or counselor will arrange a second meeting at the school with the parent or legal guardian to discuss the unexcused absences. At the second meeting, if a contact with the student and the parent has not been conducted, one shall be developed at this time concerning the alleged child being a truant. In addition, the Seven Day Absentee Notification Form will be sent to the child's parent or legal guardian (Appendix C).

**D. Ten unexcused absences:** If a student has accumulated an equivalent of ten or more unexcused absences within a school year, the parent shall be given written notice by mail that the student is a habitual truant and is not in compliance with the Compulsory Attendance School Laws. At this time, the student shall be reported to the probation services office of the judicial district where the student resides for an investigation as to whether the student shall be considered to be neglected child or a child in a family in need of services because of habitual truancy (Appendix D).

As schools are required to provide intervention strategies that focus on keeping truants in an education setting, parent student conferences should be in accordance with the three and five absentee notification letters. The school will employ interventions such as, but not limited to: parent meetings, attendance contracts and other applicable intervention strategies in order to remedy truancy issues. Another intervention that can be explored by the teacher/administrator at the parent teacher conference is referring the child and their families to local community based programs. Reasons behind students missing school can then be more thoroughly explored as to the factor relating to issues with the child and the family.

## **SECTION 20 – EDUCATIONAL RECORDS**

### **20.1 Educational Records to be maintained**

The GREAT Academy maintains the following educational records directly related to students:

- A. Academic records.
- B. Personal information records.
- C. Disciplinary records.
- D. Attendance records.
- E. Health records.
- F. Progress records.
- G. Standardized testing records.



## **20.2 Access to Education Records**

Access to education records is limited to:

- A. Parents/guardians (custodial and non-custodial) of students under 16.
- B. Parents/guardians (custodial and non-custodial) of students over 16 if the student is a dependent as defined by the Internal Revenue Service Code.
- C. Students.
- D. Officials of this school who have a legitimate educational interest.
- E. State and local officials to whom information is required to be reported.
- F. Certain testing organizations.
- G. Accrediting organizations.
- H. Appropriate persons in connection with an emergency.
- I. Law officers serving subpoenas or court orders.
- J. Any person with the written consent of the parent/guardian if the student is under 18 or the student if over 18.
- K. A school or schools in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

## **20.3 Proper Maintenance of Educational Records**

- A. The GREAT Academy requires that educational records be kept to an essential and relevant minimum. Records are reviewed at the end of each school year and non-essential or irrelevant material is deleted.
- B. The GREAT Academy limits the right of access to education records to the individuals identified above. If records contain information on more than one student, the right to inspect relates only to that portion of the record concerning that particular student.
- C. Records are available to both parents/guardians. In cases of divorce or separation, legal documents should be on file in the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR's office if one parent/guardian is not to have access to the records.

Individuals have the right to challenge the contents of student records. Parents/guardians have the right to a hearing in the event there is incorrect information or inadequacies contained within the records. A formal request for a hearing should be made through the Executive Director.

**SECTION 21 – AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT  
SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE**

In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504 and to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the GREAT Academy recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its personnel and students. No discrimination against any person with a disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system.

The school has specific responsibilities under the act, which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate and, if the student is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services.

If the parent/guardian disagrees with the determination made by the professional staff of the school, he/she has a right to a hearing with an impartial hearing officer. If there are questions, please feel free to contact the Director of Academics, at telephone number 505-792-0306.

## SECTION 22 – MANDATORY RESPONSES

Certain infractions require mandatory responses by school personnel. The consequences provided for any infraction are a minimum response. Severity of the offense will dictate the severity of the consequence.

ARSON	Restitution – Any Offense Long Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
ASSAULT, AGGRAVATED	Short or Long–Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
BATTERY, AGGRAVATED	Short or Long–Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
BOMB THREAT	Long Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
CHRONIC NON-PRODUCTIVITY	Short or Long–Term Suspension – Any Offense
EXTORTION	Restitution – Any Offense Short or Long–Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
FIREARM VIOLATION	Expulsion for at least one year – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
ROBBERY	Restitution – Any Offense Long Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE/POSSESSION	Short or Long–Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE DISTRIBUTION	Short or Long–Term Suspension – Any Offense Legal Action – Any Offense

CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE/USE

Short or Long-Term Suspension – Any  
Offense  
Legal Action – Any Offense

THEFT

Restitution – Any Offense  
Short or Long-Term Suspension  
Legal Action – Any Offense

VANDALISM/GRAFFITI

Restitution – Any Offense  
Short or Long-Term Suspension – Any  
Offense  
Legal Action – Any Offense

WEAPONS, POSSESSION

Long Term Suspension – Any Offense  
Legal Action – Any Offense

## SECTION 23 – STATE LAWS

County, city, state or federal ordinance prohibits all of the following acts. Some of the acts listed below have already been defined in this document. A reference is made after each act to the appropriate ordinance.

Aggravated Assault (§ 30–3–2 NMSA 1978)

Aggravated Battery (§ 30–3–5 NMSA 1978)

Arson and Negligent Arson (§ 30–17–5 NMSA 1978)

Assault (§ 30–3–1 NMSA 1978)

Assault; Battery: – School Personnel (§ 30–3–9 NMSA 1978)

Battery (§ 30–3–4 NMSA 1978)

Bomb Scares Unlawful (§ 30–20–16 NMSA 1978)

Breaking and Entering (§ 30–14–8 NMSA 1978)

Bribery or Intimidation of a Witness (§ 30–24–3 NMSA 1978)

Burglary (§ 30–16–3 NMSA 1978)

Compulsory School Attendance Law, (§ 22–12–1 NMSA 1978)

Computer Abuse (§ 30–45–4 NMSA 1978)

Computer Crimes (§ 30–16A–1 thru 30–16A–4 & 30–45–1 thru 7 NMSA 1978)

Computer Use, Unauthorized (§ 30–45–5 NMSA 1978)

Controlled Substance: possession prohibited (§ 30–31–23 NMSA 1978)

Criminal Damage to Property (§ 30–15–1 NMSA 1978)

Deadly Weapon on School Premises (§ 30–7–2.1 NMSA 1978)

Disorderly Conduct (§ 30–20–1 NMSA 1978)

Disruption / Public Meeting (§ 30–20–1 NMSA 1978)

Explosive Device (§ 30–7–19.1 NMSA 1978)

Extortion (§ 30–16–9 NMSA 1978)

False Alarm (§ 63–9D–11–1 NMSA 1978)

Free public schools: exceptions; withdrawing and enrolling: open enrollment (§ 22–1–4 NMSA 1978)

Indecent Exposure (§ 30–9–14 NMSA 1978)

Interference with Athletic Events (§ 30–20–18 NMSA 1978)

Interference with members of staff, public officials or the general public: trespass: damage to property; misdemeanors; penalties; (§ 30–20–13 NMSA 1978)

Larceny (Theft) (§ 30–16–1 NMSA 1978)

Possession of Alcohol by Minor (§ 60–7B–1 NMSA 1978)

Possession of Concealed Deadly Weapon (§ 30-7-2 NMSA 1978)

Public Nuisance (§ 30-8-1 NMSA 1978)

Receiving Stolen Property (§ 30-16-11 NMSA 1978)

Robbery (§ 30-16-2 NMSA 1978)

Tampering With Evidence (§ 30-22-5 NMSA 1978)

Unlawful Carrying of Deadly Weapon (§ 30-7-2 NMSA 1978)

Unlawful Carrying of Deadly Weapon on school premises (§ 30-7-2.1 NMSA 1978)

Use of Telephone to terrify, intimidate, threaten, harass, annoy or offend; penalty  
(§ 30-20-12 NMSA 1978)

All violations of county, city, state and/or federal ordinance or law will be communicated to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

**THE GREAT ACADEMY STUDENT BEHAVIOR HANDBOOK SIGN-OFF PAGE**

The undersigned parent/guardian and student state that:

- We have read The GREAT Academy Student Behavior Handbook and understand its terms and conditions.
- We understand it is our responsibility to be aware of and adhere to all standards, rules, and requirements of the school.
- We agree to be bound by the terms, conditions, rules and standards of The GREAT Academy Student Behavior Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## The GREAT Academy Anti-Bullying Pledge

As a proud student of The GREAT Academy, I believe that everybody should enjoy our school equally, and feel safe, secure and accepted regardless of color, race, gender, popularity, athletic ability, intelligence, religion and nationality. Bullying can be pushing, shoving, and hitting, as well as threatening, name calling, picking on, making fun of, spreading gossip/rumors, laughing at and excluding someone. Bullying can take place in person or on the internet or by other means of technology. Bullying causes pain and stress to victims and is never justified or excusable as "kids being kids", "just teasing" or any other rationalization. The victim is never responsible for being a target of bullying.

By signing this pledge I, the student, agree to:

1. Value student differences and treat others with respect.
2. Not become involved in bullying incidents or be a bully.
3. Report honestly and immediately all incidents of bullying to a faculty member.
4. Support students who have been or are subjected to bullying.
5. Talk to teachers and parents about concerns and issues regarding bullying.
6. Provide a good role model for my peers and younger students and support them if bullying occurs.
7. Acknowledge that I will not be a bully to other students.
8. Help stop any bullying that I see at my school.

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Signed

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Date

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Print Name

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Case Manager Signature